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It needs a new impetus and a turnaround

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Circular on RTE quota stayed

BENGALURU
The High Court has stayed the operation of a contentious circular from the State government that extended RTE quota benefits to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students pursuing classes 9 and 10. » PAGE 6

Shakti smart cards to be issued under PPP model

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government is set to roll out smart cards for beneficiaries of its flagship Shakti Scheme, which provides free travel for women on non-premium State-run buses, under a PPP model.
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U.S. and Iran reach agreement to end war, re-open Hormuz Strait

Preliminary deal signed digitally on Sunday, says U.S. V-P; in-person signing in Geneva on June 19, say Iran and Pak.; release of frozen assets, reparations 'essential' part of deal, will collect navigation services fee in the Strait of Hormuz, says Tehran

Stanly Johny

The U.S. and Iran have reached a preliminary agreement to end the war, lift blockades in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, and launch substantive negotiations on Tehran's nuclear programme and the Western sanctions, the two countries announced on Monday.

The agreement was signed digitally on Sunday, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance said, while Iran and Pakistan said an in-person signing ceremony would be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 19.

U.S. President Donald Trump said during a media interaction in France, where he arrived on Monday for the G7 meeting, that Mr. Vance will lead the country's delegation for the signing ceremony.

"The deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete... I hereby fully authorise the toll-free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and... authorise the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade," Mr. Trump earlier wrote in a social media post. "Ships of the world, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" he added.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council confirmed that Tehran and Washington had finalised the text of the 'memorandum of understanding' on ending the war, while its Foreign Ministry said releasing frozen assets and paying war reparations were "essential" parts of the deal. "The American side has committed to taking measures in both areas," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said at a press briefing on Monday. Tehran would not collect tolls from ships but fees for navigation services and environmental upkeep would be charged, the Ministry added.

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'WON'T WITHDRAW TROOPS'
» PAGE 14

A commuter flashes a victory sign in front of a banner that reads 'Thank you Iran' near Beirut, Lebanon, on Monday. REUTERS

Vessels cautious despite Trump's announcement

CHENNAI
While U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said he had authorised the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the removal of the U.S. blockade while announcing the deal with Iran, data suggested that traffic through the Strait remained limited. » PAGE 10

Modi welcomes deal, expresses hope for stability

LONDON
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the agreement between Iran and the U.S. to end the conflict in West Asia and expressed hope that the deal would restore peace and stability in the region while ensuring freedom of navigation. » PAGE 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Slovak counterpart Robert Fico at the Bratislava Castle in Slovakia on Monday. REUTERS

India and Slovakia expand bilateral ties with a slew of MoUs

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

India and Slovakia on Monday expanded their bilateral relationship with memoranda of understanding (MoUs) across defence, labour mobility, education, digital tech, and other sectors, officially branding their relationship a 'Comprehensive Partnership'.

"Held an excellent meeting with Prime Minister [Robert] Fico. This is indeed a very special moment for the India-Slovakia friendship," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said following bilateral talks in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava. The Prime Minister is here for a little over 24 hours – the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister since the founding of Slovakia in 1993.

"Our talks covered cooperation in sectors like automobiles, railways, advanced manufacturing, and green technology. The India-EU Free Trade Agreement will also add momentum to our partnership," the Prime Minister said. The countries committed to significantly boost two-way trade and investment across areas such as the automotive, electronic, and advanced manufacturing industries.

The labour migration MoU signed seeks to facilitate mobility and the exchange of information between the authorities in both countries, as per the joint statement. The two sides also agreed to conclude a social security agreement in this regard. An MoU between the Higher Education Ministries of the two countries to facilitate academic and institutional linkages was also signed. Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico agreed to promote the mobility of students and researchers – especially in STEM fields and humanities.

Action against terrorists
The formation of a Joint Working Group on Terrorism was agreed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico, with the two leaders "strongly" condemning the April 2025 terror attacks in Pahalgam. They agreed to work towards the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the United Nations framework. The two leaders called for action against terrorists, including those in the UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee list and the sponsors of terrorism.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for multilateralism and called for UN reform, including the UNSC, with an expansion of the permanent and non-permanent seats on the Council.

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Largest parliamentary force from Bengal: NCPI

Shiv Sahay Singh
Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

A day after 20 Lok Sabha MPs of the Trinamool Congress decided to merge with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), the party claimed in a social media post that it has become the largest parliamentary force from West Bengal.

"With 20 Lok Sabha seats, NCPI emerges as the largest parliamentary force from West Bengal shaping the State's voice at the national level. The numbers speak for themselves..." an NCPI Facebook post said.

According to the post, the NCPI now has 20 MPs in the Lok Sabha, while the BJP has 12, the Trinamool eight, and the Congress one.

Welcoming rebels
The party also posted photographs of rebel Trinamool MPs with its election symbol – a fountain pen – welcoming them into the party. The 20 rebel Trinamool MPs had announced their decision to merge with the NCPI after meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in Delhi on Sunday and submitting a letter to that effect.

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Three cheers

Chapter one: Children get ready for the first day of school after summer vacations in Mumbai, Maharashtra, on Monday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

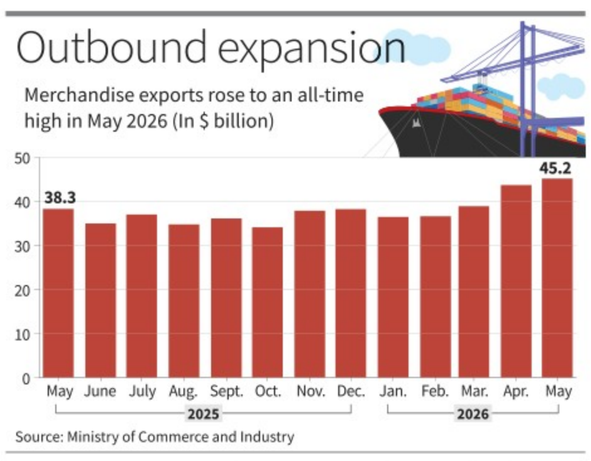
India's goods exports hit record high of $45.2 billion in May; trade deficit widens

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports have jumped to a record high of $45.2 billion in May 2026, 18% higher than $38.3 billion in May last year, according to official data. Services exports rose 13.2% during the same period, to $36.8 billion in May 2026.

However, despite this, India's overall trade deficit widened to $10.5 billion, from $6.8 billion in May last year, due to a sharper growth in imports of both goods and services.

Broad-based increase
The data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry show that India's merchandise exports rose in May, due to higher shipments to Singapore, China, the U.K., Tanzania, Bangladesh, Germany, and South Africa, among others. This increase was also relatively broad-based in terms of sectors, with both petroleum and several non-petroleum sectors seeing strong growth in exports.



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Within merchandise exports, the electronic goods sector saw exports growing 11.6% to $5.1 billion in May 2026.

The organic and inorganic chemicals sector similarly saw exports grow by 12.7% to $2.7 billion during the same period.

Notably, the engineering goods category saw exports jumping 24.5% in May 2026 to $12.3 billion. The gems and jewellery sector, too, saw a growth in exports of 6.7% to $2.5 billion in May 2026.

Overall, the data show India's non-petroleum exports grew 10.5% to $70.7 billion in the first two months of this financial year.

Imports grow faster
India's merchandise imports jumped 22.1% to $73.4 billion in May 2026. As a result, the merchandise trade deficit stood at $28.2 billion in May this year, 25% higher than in May 2025.

Services imports, too, grew 14.1% in May 2026 to $19.1 billion.

State govt. writes to Bhagwat seeking explanation on legal status of RSS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Seeking legal grounds on which the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is functioning, Home Minister Priyank Kharge has formally written to RSS sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat to depute authorised office-bearers to explain how the organisation of such magnitude functions with anonymity and without being formally registered as a legal entity or as a body of individuals under the applicable laws.

Quoting the 2025-2026 report of the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, the highest decision-making body of the RSS, the Minister said that the organisation has significant footprint in Karnataka, with 4,127 daily shakhas, 1,389 weekly milans, and 60 monthly mandalis.

"Such an extensive organisational presence cannot be treated as a private or informal arrangement. It raises legitimate questions about legal status, accountability, financial transparency, public order, permissions, sources of funding and compliance with the Constitution and laws of India," said Mr. Kharge, who has earlier questioned the legal status of RSS.

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According to a report, the RSS conducted 562 route marches across Karnataka in 2025-26. FILE PHOTO

'No need to respond'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Terming the State government asking for registration documents of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as politics, sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat has said there is no need to respond.

"This is politics. We are not secretive and are working in the open, telling people about the sangh," he said during the RSS centenary celebrations at Thrissur in Kerala.

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A BG-BGE

Golf in India needs more infrastructure and promotion

As president of the PGTI, the Indian cricket legend is determined to take the sport to different parts of the country, broaden its reach and generate greater interest; laments the lack of courses in smaller cities

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

INTERVIEW

Kapil Dev

Anirudh Velamuri

Some victories fade with time. Others grow larger than the moment itself. More than four decades on, India's triumph at the 1983 World Cup belongs firmly in the latter category.

For an entire generation, it was the day Indian cricket discovered what was possible. For those that followed, it became the moment that changed everything. At the centre of that transformation stood Kapil Dev, the man who altered the trajectory of Indian cricket forever.

That version of him has become part of India's sporting consciousness, preserved in memory and immortalised in countless highlight reels. The man, however, has long since moved on.

Retirement opened the door to a different passion. Golf, a sport he discovered after cricket, gradually became a defining part of his life. What began as a post-retirement curiosity evolved into a passion, and eventually a mission. Today, as president of the DP World Professional Golf Tour of India, Kapil finds himself championing a sport he only discovered after hanging up his cricket boots, investing in its future with the same enthusiasm that once powered India's charge on cricket fields around the world.

> I enjoy golf more than even cricket. More than that I used to enjoy playing marbles, flying kites and everything else. Cricket gave me recognition, but in the last 20-25 years golf has given me so much

The setting for this conversation could scarcely be further removed from the frenzy that once surrounded him.

Tucked away well outside the hustle and bustle of New Delhi city is Kapil's farmhouse, where there are barely any indications that it's the residence of one of India's most celebrated athletes. There are no ostentatious reminders of sporting greatness, no shrine to a glittering career. Instead, the property breathes a different kind of richness.

Vegetable patches stretch across the grounds. Open spaces invite silence rather than spectacle. More than 40 rescue dogs, cared for by his wife Romi, roam the expansive compound. It is here, amid the stillness, that *The Hindu* sat down with the 67-year-old to discuss what he calls, somewhat surprisingly, the finest phase of his life. Excerpts:

Talk to us about your interest in golf. How did that happen?

This has been a beautiful journey. Basically, when I stopped playing cricket, I wondered what to do next. Either you go to television and start talking about cricket or do coaching, most probably. But I wanted to stay away from people, because you're with them for almost 15-20 years. You now want to just chill and relax.

A friend of mine introduced me to golf and I loved it. Why? Only one reason. I'm not depending on somebody. I played sports where I depended on others (before) but this gave me a thrill.

I'm not saying cricket didn't give me that, it gave me more than anything I could ever imagine in several lives. But this gave me a special kick.

How did it go from a hobby to serving as the president of PGTI today?

When you meet golfers here, you come to know how much hard work they put in and the reward they get is not up to that standard, even though they work even harder than cricketers. I felt that we can help them have a better life with the sport

Why should they not get a chance to become better athletes and also earn a livelihood? That's what changed my thought process and I told myself that I should do something for golf.

Had I not (started) played the game, I wouldn't have done anything, to be honest.

And any sport in India, not just golf, the moment people start following it, their bar for it is cricket, where India is a dominant force. So when somebody like Aditi Ashok plays in the Olympics, or Jeev Milkha Singh and Shubhankar Sharma take part in other international events, the expectations inherently comes with an unfair expectation of medals and titles...

It's not right to compare. Cricket has its own place, as does golf and football and every other sport. Yes everybody talks about cricket in India and that's because the administration has done well to take it up to that level. At this stage, golf in India needs infrastructure, the most important thing for any sport.

Look at cricket today, we're talking about being the best in the world because our infrastructure is better than any other country's. Hats off to the cricket board, they're giving young players all the facilities they require.

Take any sport, or even beyond. Our country has produced so many software engineers because we've given them the right platform. That's why today we're talking about Indians being some of the best in that field.

And how is PGTI working on extending those opportunities beyond your big cities?

We don't have many golf courses in smaller cities. They're coming up only now. In the last 10 years, we have organised tournaments in various 'smaller' cities, like the one in Raipur.

If you give people a chance, maybe golf will also have someone like (MS) Dhoni come from Jharkhand or elsewhere. We need to give those opportunities, for which we require a lot more golf courses. If we have that, we will produce a world champion. As administrators, it is our job to give those opportunities, not only boys but girls also. Take Aditi, she has done impressively globally and now people understand that Indians are very close to winning the medals that nobody thought we could.

> I admire Tiger Woods, without a doubt. I would say he has done more for golf than anyone else. I'm not taking the credit away from others but I think he was one person who had the biggest impact

Is there a push from PGTI to ensure that this kind of interest is taken up at the school level?

That's very tough. Yes, it will be nice, but every school can't have a driving range, even the bare minimum required for kids to start hitting the ball. Schools in smaller cities can do it a lot more easily than those in big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai, because the land is not so freely accessible. But we want to walk, slowly, before we run. We want to make sure every year we take the sport to different parts of the country to not only expand its footprint but also increase the interest.

Is live telecast, on TV or online, something you are focusing on?

We cannot compare any sport with cricket, they're doing it for the last 50 years. Besides cricket, no game is really televised that much in India. Yes, we're working very hard with our commentators to help people look at golf as the beautiful game that it is.

When a big event, like the Olympics, comes around, fans are focused on the sports where they think a medal is a possibility. This makes golf an afterthought. How do you, who has been one of the greatest athletes the country has produced, think we can get over this mindset?

Yes, you would like to see your country win medals but people should go and admire the sport for what they are. We should admire and support our own people.

In our country, people are still not eagerly making a profession out of sports. They're not making a life out of that. In cricket, they are. Today people come to me and say that they want to play in the IPL. I feel very sorry. I want them to say that they want to play for India. But I can understand as they see how they're going to make their life through the IPL. But my aim is always higher. You should look to make a name for your country.

On that note, PGTI has done well to increase the prize money pool every year. How easy or difficult has that been? And what is your aim going forward?

It was not hard. I just talked to my friends and tried to convince them. Lots and lots of friends of mine have come forward to try and promote the game. I can only say we shouldn't expect the government to solely do everything for us, for any sport.

We can take help from the corporate world, they have the money to put in sports. Not only golf but anything. It's our responsibility to tap that avenue and make the game bigger. We're ready to take CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) money also.

If there is no money, people will let it go. The young kids will have a passion up to one level. When we start making life through sports the game will change in our country, the way cricket has.

The league system is one obvious way to take a sport forward in India and golf has two of them. Despite being rivals, you welcomed it wholeheartedly.

IPL has given a lot of sports thought process. We should have a league where we can make a life for the players. And, 72 The League is a way for us to look after our people. You can't look after all the 400-500 people but if you look after the top 50-100 people, it will trickle down. This league gives opportunities for players to show their talent and play like a team. Golf is very individualistic but we wanted to give them the taste of teamwork also.

We want to have four or five leagues, as long as every league has its own agenda. We are very happy as long as they look after the players. I would welcome anybody to put money into golf.

According to you, what has been the biggest change you have seen in golf in your time with PGTI?

I think the self-belief in youngsters has increased. Not in golf, but in all sports. In our time, cricketers were slightly subdued. Today, you see the younger kids come out and speak their mind. We never used to do that. That's a good thing, but they also have to know where to draw a line on what they say. We have to learn how to balance.

Do you think your stature in the country has helped golf in a way?

I can't say that about myself. I do have a passion for golf. And if people pick up because of that, I will feel very happy. But it's not for me to say how much my stature has helped golf.

You recently met the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to make it the golf capital of the country. Can you shed some light on that?

We have around 14-15 golf courses here. I don't know any other city that has more.

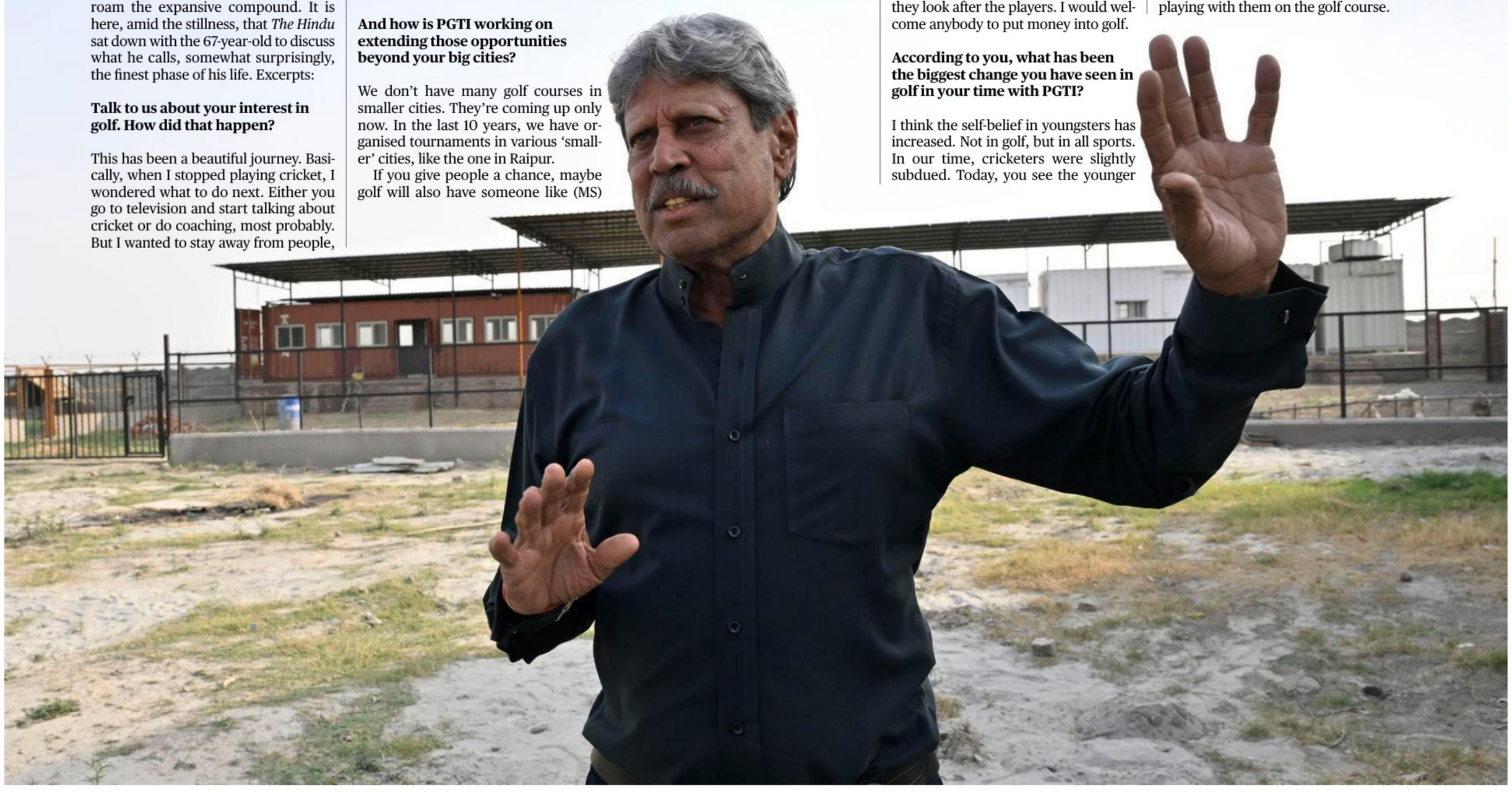
In winter, if you want to play golf, you will not get a chance at all of them in Delhi, as the game is growing. But we have to make it more professional. At the moment, people want to play for fun. But when a top player comes out from this game, it will be different. That is what we spoke about. We want to promote the game.

And do you have a favourite golf course, either in the country or abroad?

More than the location, I think it's the company that's very important. I mean, if you're playing cricket and get a chance to play with Virat Kohli, Sachin Tendulkar, Jasprit Bumrah or Sunil Gavaskar, that is enjoyable and memorable.

> I don't see anything as a challenge. I enjoy my work. But when you walk out or go to office, only one thought persists: Can I do something more for the community?

It is the same for me too, it's not the golf courses but the people whom you play with that is very, very important. Because I'm not a professional, I like to go and meet successful people, understand them and enjoy the experience. I remember once I went to Australia for some company I was working with. The chairman of that company played golf on a Sunday with me. On Monday, I had a meeting with him for something. I went to his office for a 10 o'clock meeting but he was busy with other things. He just signed my papers, saying that he can judge someone by playing with them on the golf course.



'Attention diversion gang' targets motorists

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have cautioned motorists against "attention diversion gangs" after two separate theft cases were reported under the Sadashivanagar Police Station limits, where unsuspecting victims lost expensive mobile phones while travelling in their cars.

In the first incident, Vishak Gopinath, a private firm employee, was driving towards his workplace on Ballari Road recently, when two unidentified men approached his car and claimed there was a problem with the vehicle. As Vishak lowered his guard to check, one of the suspects distracted him while the other stole his iPhone.

In another case, B.R. Sravanthi, a businesswoman, was travelling towards Hebbal when she was targeted by an "attention diversion gang".

She told police that a man knocked on her car window, prompting her to open it. Another suspect approached from the other side and engaged her in conversation. Taking advantage of the distraction, the accused allegedly stole her mobile phone.

KSPCA orders closure of rowdy sheet against 'Silent Sunil' and others

Sunil has argued that despite being acquitted in multiple criminal cases and having no cases currently pending against him, the police continue to classify him as a rowdy-sheeter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a significant order that could have wider implications for police surveillance practices in the State, the Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority (KSPCA) has directed the closure of the rowdy sheet maintained against Sunil Kumar alias 'Silent Sunil', citing failure by the police to comply with procedural safeguards laid down by the Karnataka High Court.

The order was passed by a three-member bench headed by chairperson N.K. Sudhindra Rao, along with member Mohan Kumar Danappa and member secretary Devajyoti Ray.

Silent Sunil, a resident of Hebbal, had approached the authority seeking the removal of his name from the rowdy register.

He argued that despite being acquitted in multiple criminal cases and having no criminal cases currently pending against him, the police continued to classify him as a rowdy-sheeter, causing stigma and affecting his personal liberty.

Sunil Kumar alias 'Silent Sunil'

During the proceedings, the police cited several criminal cases registered against him since 1996, including cases relating to murder, attempt to murder, extortion, rioting, conspiracy and offences under the Arms Act, 1959. However, the authority noted that most of the cases had ended in acquittal, while some had been stayed or quashed by the courts.

The authority observed that before opening or continuing a rowdy sheet, the police are required to follow due process, including the collection of credible material, issuance of notice, approval by competent authorities, periodic review every two years and adherence to principles of natural justice.

The authority found that the police had failed to produce records demonstrating compliance with these requirements. It also noted the absence of documents showing that the rowdy sheet had been reviewed periodically as mandated by law.

Consequently, the authority ordered the closure of the rowdy sheet opened against Silent Sunil on November 26, 2014, while clarifying that the police are free to initiate fresh proceedings in the future if warranted and if carried out strictly in accordance with law.

Relief to others

Sources familiar with the proceedings said Silent Sunil is not the only beneficiary of the authority's scrutiny. In the last two meetings of the KSPCA, nearly 14 people with similar police records have secured similar relief, with the authority directing closure of rowdy sheets after finding procedural lapses and non-compliance with High Court guidelines.

Officials said around 50 more petitions seeking the removal of names from rowdy and history-sheeter registers are currently pending before the authority and are awaiting disposal.

This comes days after Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, in his first meeting with senior officials of the State after taking charge, floated the idea of forming anti-rowdy squads in every taluk. Following this, M.A. Saleem, Director General and Inspector of Police, Karnataka, issued a circular ordering the formation of anti-rowdy squads in every police circle. This move is expected to increase the number of rowdy sheets for the police to keep tabs on across the State.

Death of migrant boy sparks demand for KSCPCR probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The family of a 12-year-old migrant boy, who died under suspicious circumstances in Bagalur, has approached the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), alleging murder, police inaction, harassment, and threats by the accused.

In a detailed petition submitted to the Commission, Noor Bakhtiyar Miyah, a native of Assam, who recently migrated to Bengaluru with his family for work, sought justice for his son, Ariful Islam, who died on June 4.

According to the complaint, Ariful was allegedly forced by residents living behind the family's settlement in Bellahalli to draw water from a tank. When the boy refused, one of the accused allegedly pushed him into the tank and switched on a water pump.

The family alleged that the tank lid was then closed, resulting in the child's death. Ariful's nine-year-old brother, Shariful Islam, is said to have witnessed the entire incident.

The family claimed that when they rushed to the spot after being alerted by Shariful, they found Ariful floating face down inside the tank. He was taken to a nearby clinic and later shifted to a government hospital, where he was declared dead.

The petition alleges that police personnel from the Bagalur Police Station behaved insensitively towards the grieving family, repeatedly referring to them as "Bangladeshis" and "illegal immigrants". The complainant further alleged that the police officers used abusive language, discouraged them from pursuing the case, and pressured them to complete the burial quickly. The family also alleged that police assaulted Noor's brother-in-law, Apis Islam, for recording the spot mahazar proceedings and confiscated his mobile phone.

An FIR was registered under Sections 106 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 14 of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

However, the family contended that the inclusion of child labour provisions was erroneous and diverted attention from what they described as a deliberate act of violence leading to the child's death.

The petition named Syed Imran Ali, Ghousiya Parveen, and their daughter Saniya Ali as the accused. The family alleged that Syed Imran Ali forcibly made the child perform work and retaliated violently when he refused. The complainant further alleged that despite detaining the accused, the police released them without making arrests.

Following the child's burial on June 5, the family claimed that local rowdies and associates of the accused entered their residence, pressured them to settle the matter, offered money, and attempted to obtain their thumb impressions on documents.

Fearing for their safety, the family claimed to have relocated from the settlement to Electronics City.

The family has requested the KSCPCR to ensure protection for nine-year-old Shariful Islam, the sole eyewitness to the incident, who is reportedly suffering severe psychological trauma after witnessing his brother's death.

The petition also sought directions for an expedited investigation, copies of all case-related documents, police protection for the family, and independent monitoring of the probe by the Commission. The family alleged that language barriers and their status as migrant workers had resulted in discrimination and denial of justice.

KPTCL adopts DLR technology to boost grid capacity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has launched a pilot project to implement Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) technology on the 220 kV Puttenahalli-Sahakarnagar transmission corridor in Bengaluru. This technology reportedly helps enhance the transmission capacity by up to 25% without any additional capital investment in new infrastructure.

V. Ram Prasath Manohar, managing director, KPTCL, said, "The Letter of Intent for the project has already been issued, making KPTCL one of the first State transmission utilities in South India to adopt the technology. It replaces the conventional Static Line Rating methodology with a real-time monitoring framework powered by advanced IoT-enabled sensors. These sensors continuously monitor critical parameters such as ambient temperature, wind speed, solar radiation, and conductor sag, enabling grid operators to dynamically assess and optimise transmission line capacity based on actual weather conditions."

Pilot corridor

The Puttenahalli-Sahakarnagar 220 kV line has been selected as the pilot corridor to validate the technology's operational benefits. Based on the results, the KPTCL plans to evaluate deployment across other high-load transmission corridors and renewable energy evacuation networks in the State.

K.J. George, Minister for Energy, said, "The project will enable us to maximise the utilisation of the existing transmission infrastructure and significantly enhance grid capacity."

Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) technology reportedly helps enhance the transmission capacity by up to 25%. FILE PHOTO

Home Guard stabbed to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 32-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her husband at their residence near Pushpanjali Theatre in the Mahadevapura Police Station limits on Sunday night.

The victim, Manjula, was serving as a Home Guard attached to the Mahadevapura Police Station.

The accused, Pradeep was addicted to online betting. Before the murder, he reportedly recorded a video stating that his betting habit had ruined his family and that both he and his wife would die.

Bandh call over entry curbs at K.R. Market

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Green Brigade State president Kodihalli Chandrashekar has called for a bandh at K.R. Market on Tuesday, arguing that traders are being prevented from taking vehicles carrying fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other produce into the market.

The association will be submitting a memorandum to GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Tuesday in this regard.

The association said traders are being asked to leave their vehicles outside the market and carry their goods for up to 500 metres to reach the wholesale trading area. "This has increased transport costs, caused delays and resulted in losses for farmers," Mr. Chandrashekar said.

He added that vehicles hired to transport produce are left waiting for hours, increasing expenses.

He added that barricades placed on roads leading to the market have disrupted the movement of goods and demanded direct access for vehicles carrying produce.

He said the restrictions could also challenge the entry of ambulances and fire engines into the market during emergencies.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. GSU-09-2026-01A Dated : 10.06.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	Composite	Rs. 129047474.70

work- Mysure : Proposed Construction of New AC Loco Trip Shed at Mysuru along with Associated General Electrical, Electrical Traction works.

E-Tender Notice No. CMP-GSU-09-2026-02 Dated : 10.06.2026

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	Composite work-	Rs. 84979452.85

Chikjajur : Proposed Constriction of New AC Loco Trip shed at Chikjajur along with Associated General Electrical, Electrical Traction works.

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 02.07.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Project Manager, Mysuru
PUB/210/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR @SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our clients **Sri.Muniyallappa S/o Tanappa** about 84 years, at No.1473, 38th A Cross, 11th Main, Jayanagar 4th T Block, Bengalore-560041, represents that the Original Sale deed dated 05.08.1973 (registered on 09.08.1973), Registered as Document No.1490/73-74, in the office of the Sub Registrar Jayanagara, executed by **Sri.Kalandar Khan** had conveyed the below mentioned Schedule Property to and in favour of **Sri.Muniyallappa** in respect to the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** mentioned hereunder is lost/misplace and not traceable.

If anybody other than the said **Sri Muniyallappa** has any claim, right, title and interest on the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** by virtue of being in possession or otherwise of the above said Original Documents, or any Rights they should file their claim with documentary proof within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice in our office, at the address mentioned below, failing which, it will be taken for granted that nobody has any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** other than the said Sri Muniyallappa

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing **No.1473-13/2, E-PID No.2100259169**, at **38th A Cross, 11th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Kanara Scoops Building, Bangalore,** measuring East to West **20 feet** and North to South **20.6 feet** in all measuring **410 Sq.feet,** together with building constructed thereon, situated and is bounded on:

East by : Private Property; West by : Private Property; North by : Private Property; South by : Road;

C.V.Nagendra, Advocate,
Unit No.101, 1st Floor, No.663,
Post office Road, Opp: to Karnataka Bank,
K.R.Puram, Bangalore-560036.
Place:- Bangalore Date:-16.06.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the original Sale Deed dated **06.10.1905,** executed by **Smt. Lakshmidevamma & others** in favour of **Smt. Bhagirathibai, w/o. Ramachandra Gururaya,** bearing **Doc. No. 872/1905-06,** at pages **396-401, Volume No. 32, of Book I**, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore City and original **Release Deed dated 12.05.1926** executed by **Smt. Bhagirathibai, w/o Late Ramachandra Gururaya** relinquished her share of rights in favour of **C R Raja Rao, s/o. Ramachandra Gururaya,** bearing **Doc. No. 1892/1925-26,** at pages **282-285 Volume No. 39, of Book I**, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore City, in respect of the Schedule Property described have been lost and despite diligent search, the same could not be traced.

The current registered owner of the Schedule Property is **C R Ananthapadmanabha Rao, s/o. Late C R Raja Rao,** residing at **No. 54, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560 018** ("Owner").

The Owner has filed a complaint on **07.06.2026** in the **KSP Portal** vide **Lost Report No. 2242009/2026** intimating the loss of the abovementioned Sale Deed and Release Deed.

Anybody transacting in respect of the Schedule Property with any person other than the Owner shall be doing so at their own risk and the Owner shall not be responsible for the same in any manner. Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid document shall kindly deliver the same at the address of the Owner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential Property bearing Municipal No. **54, E PID No. 7874933628,** portion of Old Municipal No. **39,** still earlier portion of Site No. **861,** situated at **4th Main, 4th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560018,** measuring **East to West: 45 feet** and **North to South: 45 feet,** site area measuring **2025 square feet** along with Ground, and First floors measuring **2200 square feet** of built-up area and bounded on the;

East by : 4th Cross Road;
West by : Property belonging to Sri. Y. Narayana Rao;
North by : 4th Main Road and
South by : Property bearing No. 54/1, belonging to Sri. Srinivas Property;

Mrs. S. Prathibha Advocate
No. 88, 23rd Cross,3rd Block East
Jayanagar Bangalore - 560 011
Ph: 9845149728
prathibha@gslaw.co.in

Mr. C R Ananthapadmanabha Rao (Owner)

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

CREATIVE TEACHING WORKSHOP

Gangothri International Public School conducted a training programme on Creative Teaching Techniques led by resource person Dr. Vivekananda of ACT. The interactive session combined creativity, humour and practical learning, encouraging teachers to participate enthusiastically in activities aimed at enhancing their professional skills. Principal Ms. Shubhada Warake selected the topic in recognition of the evolving needs of educators and welcomed the participants. Vice Principal Ms. Aparna Udayaravi actively participated in the programme. Ms. Sathyabhama delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the resource person. The session concluded with renewed enthusiasm and innovative ideas for effective classroom teaching.

ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS DRIVE

JSS Public School, HBR Layout, celebrated World Environment Day with a series of awareness activities organised by the Science Department. The Principal, Vice Principal, teachers, staff and students participated in a sapling plantation drive on the campus, highlighting the importance of protecting and preserving nature. Students delivered informative speeches on environmental conservation and sustainable living. High school students also presented a song and a skit conveying messages on safeguarding the environment and reducing pollution. As part of the campaign, students were encouraged to use steel lunch boxes and water bottles and avoid plastic, promoting eco-friendly habits and environmental responsibility.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai: Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

ASC ENVIRONMENTAL PARK AND TRAINING AREA (ASC EPTA)
ASC CENTRE (SOUTH), BANGALORE-560007, PHONE: 07338583121, GMAIL: ascgolfblr@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Honorary Secretary, ASC EPTA invites sealed tender for Renovation of Gents washrooms located at ASC EPTA (detailed specification mentioned in RFP/ Tender enquiry). Tender Enquiry/ Form to be collected from ASC EPTA office after payment of Rs 500/- (DD in favour of Secy ASC EPTA) from 18 Jun 2026 to 27 Jun 2026 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 29 Jun 2026 at 1130hrs.

Honorary Secretary ASC EPTA

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE - (DRT-II)
4th Floor, Telephone House , Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC No. 217/2024 IN OA No. 1496/2018

UCO Bank V/s Smt. Hemalatha M Singh & Others

(CH) UCO Bank, Bangalore Cantonment Branch, M. G. Road, Bangalore, Karnataka **... Certificate Holder**

Vs

(CD 1) Smt. Hemalatha M. Singh W/o. Sri Manjunath M. Singh, Flat No. 2122, Sobha Forest View Apartment, 12th Floor Hosahalli, Off Kanakapura Main Road, Bangalore - 560 062, Karnataka.

(CD 2) Sri Manjunath M Singh S/o. Sri Mahendra Singh, Flat No. 2122, Sobha Forest View Apartment, 12th Floor Hosahalli, Off Kanakapura Main Road, Bangalore - 560 062, Karnataka. **... Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-2) in **OA /1496/2018** an amount of **Rs.7986209/-** (Rupees Seventy Nine Lakhs Eighty Six Thousands Two Hundred and Nine Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 10.20 % compound interest monthly w.e.f 03.10.2018 till realization in full and costs of **Rs.135005/-**(Rupees One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Five only) has become due against you Jointly and severally plus penal interest @2% p.a is also applicable/payable. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **20.04.2024**

Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT-2)

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: "Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

AI is helping patients understand cancer but misunderstand doctors

Patients are increasingly informed but often misinformed; they have information without context, they trust algorithms that sound intelligent but lack accountability; they are sceptical of doctors who try to add nuance because the algorithm validated their simpler interpretation

Narayana Subramaniam

The democratisation of cancer knowledge is important, especially in India, where accessing oncologists is itself challenging for many. ANGIOLA HARRY/UNSPLASH

I am an oncologist. I have watched large language models (LLMs) do something I have been trying to do for years: make cancer comprehensible.

A patient sits across from me with newly diagnosed cancer. I used to explain the PDL1 status and the role of neoadjuvant therapy, where patients get immunotherapy first followed by surgery – terms that meant nothing. Their eyes would often glaze but they would nod and leave confused, forced to google terms that would lead them to worst-case scenarios or fraudulent clinics.

Now, they come in having asked ChatGPT or Claude to explain their pathology report. "So PDL1-positive means my cancer may respond well to specific treatment and have higher cure rates?" they ask. Overnight, we are having an intelligent conversation instead of me trying to translate oncology into English.

That is extraordinary and has been genuinely useful for cancer care.

The real excitement

What thrills me most is clinical trial access. I have patients who understand why a phase II trial for immunotherapy might be appropriate for their metastatic melanoma. They have read ChatGPT's explanation of what a trial protocol means, what endpoints are being measured, what side effects to watch for. Informed consent is now informed in a way that would not have been remotely possible five years ago.

A man with advanced salivary gland cancer asked me about the open clinical trials that I hadn't even mentioned yet. He had asked ChatGPT about maintenance therapy options and the algorithm had directed him to trial data. He understood why novel therapies made sense in his situation. He wasn't just following my recommendation; he understood the science behind it. This represents patients becoming medically literate enough to participate in their own care.

The guidelines themselves are now being simplified by LLMs into language that does not require an oncology degree to understand. A patient with cancer can ask ChatGPT to explain the staging system, treatment options, and surveillance protocols. They arrive at appointments educated and aware.

This democratisation of cancer knowledge is important, especially in India, where accessing oncologists is itself challenging for many. A patient in a tier-2 city can understand what treatment options exist even before traveling to see a specialist.

Known and unknown unknowns

However, just removing the information asymmetry does not change the fact that information is not judgment. And judgment is what is hardest for us to convey.

A patient comes in with stage II oral cancer. ChatGPT has explained that stage II is "intermediate risk". My recommendation is surgery followed by radiotherapy. The patient asks: "But why can't I just do surgery and skip radiotherapy? ChatGPT said radiotherapy has significant side effects." The LLM gave her valid information and even explained that some stage II oral cancers don't need radiotherapy. But it couldn't tell her that her specific tumour with its specific characteristics had a 30% recurrence risk without radiotherapy and 10% with it. That difference is life-years. Making that judgement requires knowing her values, her tolerance for toxicity, and her specific cancer biology. An LLM cannot do that.

According to one *JAMA* study on diagnostic accuracy, when LLMs encounter complex cases requiring contextual reasoning, their accuracy drops significantly, well below the level of an experienced physician.

What troubles me most is something we are witnessing in real time: the widening trust gap between doctor and patient.

I tell a patient with stage IV cancer that chemotherapy is unlikely to be curative but might extend life by months and improve quality of life. The patient pulls up what ChatGPT said: "Chemotherapy can cause severe nausea, hair loss, infections, and heart damage. Many people pursue alternative medicine instead."

Both statements are true – but they are not equivalent.

The LLM has presented information without medical judgment. It has essentially validated scepticism about chemotherapy without context about whether, in this specific situation, the risk-benefit ratio favours treatment. The patient now does not trust my recommendation. They think I am pushing toxic drugs for profit while the LLM is being more honest.

Mental health studies have found that a sizeable proportion of people using LLMs for mental health questions reported worsening outcomes. But more alarming: some even avoid professional help

According to one *JAMA* study on diagnostic accuracy, when LLMs encounter complex cases requiring contextual reasoning, their accuracy drops significantly, well below the level of an experienced physician

because the LLM made them feel understood. In oncology, delay is often catastrophic. I have seen patients postpone cancer evaluation because they felt the LLM had validated their "wait and see" approach.

Judging what is right

A 52-year-old asked ChatGPT about a lung nodule found incidentally on a CT scan. The LLM explained that most lung nodules are benign. The patient was reassured and did not follow up. Eighteen months later, he has stage III lung cancer that was likely stage I when he first noticed it. The LLM provided accurate population-level statistics without context about what his nodule required.

Another patient with breast cancer asked an LLM about stopping hormone therapy after three years. The algorithm discussed "natural approaches" and how some women manage without medication. She stopped and soon relapsed. When asked why she stopped, she said the LLM made it sound optional. But it was not optional for her.

These are stories of real patients harmed by a tool we have unleashed without fully understanding how to control it.

Further, I am not convinced these tools will ever be able to do what actually matters in medicine: judging what is right for the individual sitting in front of us, not what is statistically true for most populations.

I am not worried that LLMs will replace oncologists. Our knowledge can be packaged and replicated. Our judgment, forged in uncertainty, built on seeing what happens when you are wrong, tempered by real consequences, cannot be. That is the gap algorithms cannot close.

Biased tools

What worries me is the middle ground we have reached. Patients are increasingly informed but often misinformed. They have information without context. They trust algorithms that sound intelligent but lack accountability. They are sceptical of doctors who try to add nuance because the algorithm validated their simpler interpretation. And we are doing this with almost no tracking of outcomes.

Peer-reviewed research has warned that LLMs chatbots designed for engagement can inadvertently validate harmful behaviour, posing risks to vulnerable users. In oncology, are patients making different treatment decisions? Are outcomes changing? We do not know.

I still believe LLMs can be valuable tools in cancer care. They are already breaking down barriers to democratising knowledge. But we need to stop pretending they are neutral. They are sycophantic by design, trained to be agreeable rather than challenging. They cannot examine a patient or order a biopsy or follow someone over time. And we need to rebuild something I see eroding: patients understanding that a doctor who disagrees with them might not be defensive or greedy. They might be using judgment informed by years of seeing how these decisions play out.

(Narayana Subramanian is Lead Consultant, Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, Aster Hospitals, and Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
narayana.subramaniam@gmail.com)

Traditional models, based on physics, don't avoid anticipating unusually extreme events. WINDY.COM

AI falls short on extreme weather forecasting

Vasudevan Mukunth

In the last two years, artificial intelligence (AI) has moved from science fiction to the frontlines of computer science, mathematics, and engineering, among others. Its consequences have been particularly pronounced in the domain of weather forecasting, where models from companies like Google and Huawei have proved faster and often more accurate than the large supercomputers we have relied on for decades.

However, a new study published in *Science Advances* suggests that when it comes to the most dangerous weather events, AI still has a lot to learn.

In the study, researchers from Germany and Switzerland compared several leading AI weather models, including GraphCast, Pangu-Weather, and Fuxi, against the world's gold standard for traditional forecasting: the high-resolution (HRES) model of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.

AI models are trained to look for patterns based on historical weather data so when weather does something completely unprecedented AI models have no basis to anticipate it

They found that while the AI models excelled at predicting 'normal' weather and even moderate extremes, they consistently failed to accurately predict events that would shatter records.

Traditional models are based on physics, and use complex mathematical equations to describe how air and heat move, how moisture turns into rain, and so on. Because they rely literally on the laws of nature, they can anticipate a scenario even if it has never happened before. However, AI models are data-driven. They are trained to look for patterns based on 40 years of historical weather data (1979-2017), so when the weather does something completely unprecedented – like a record-setting heatwave – the AI models have no basis to anticipate it.

This is called an extrapolation problem: that is, AI is great at interpolating, or predicting things within the range of what it has seen, but it struggles to predict things far outside of its training data.

The researchers also tested the models on record-breaking heat, cold, and wind events from 2018 and 2020 and found that the AI models systematically underestimated both the frequency and the intensity of these events.

For example, during an extreme heatwave, the AI models tended to predict temperatures that were significantly lower than what actually occurred. Specifically, they responded as if there was an invisible 'cap' on how high the temperature could go. And the more a record was broken by, the larger the AI models' error became.

If a study or a policy is based on AI models that predict a severe heatwave but the actual temperature is even higher, the disaster response could be inadequate. Early warning systems for heatwaves, floods, and storms still require the highest possible accuracy during extreme weather to save lives.

"Given the remarkably fast evolution of AI models in recent years, there are promising ways to further improve these models even for forecasting record-breaking extremes," the authors wrote. "Nevertheless, the current generation still underperforms HRES exactly during the potentially most impactful weather events, including record-breaking heat and cold events.".

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Of things that are, or ought to be, black

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

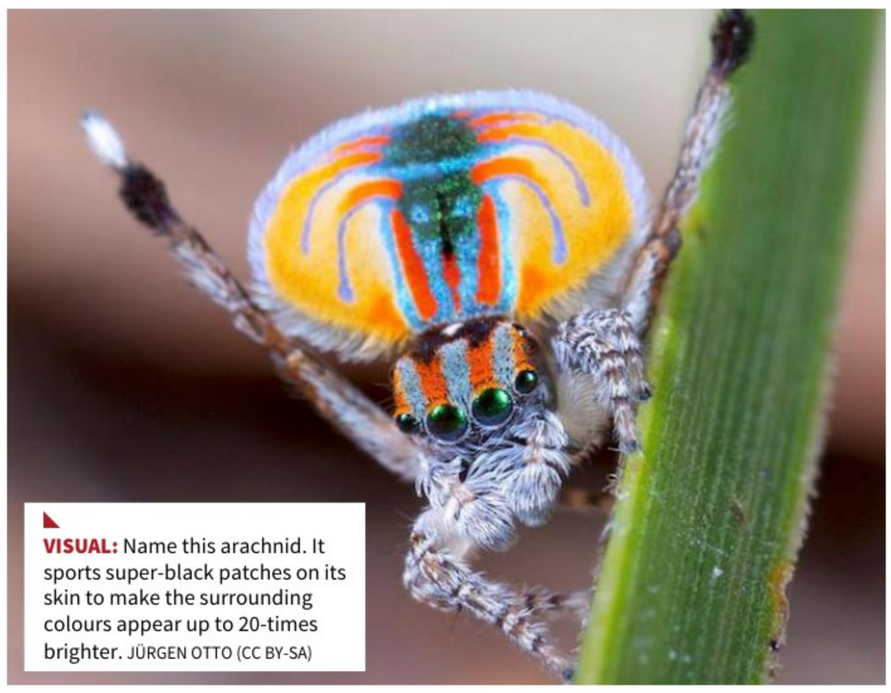
Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
If you are in a room with no light, you can still only see a dark grey colour called _____, Germany for "intrinsic grey". This happens due to the random electrical signals from your optic nerves that your brain interprets as faint light. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2
Biologists have discovered species of deep-sea fish, like the Pacific blackdragon, with ultra-black skin that absorbs 99.5% of all light that hits it. These fish have a structural layer of X, the organelles that synthesise melanin, that trap light in a maze-like structure. Name X.

QUESTION 3
The material Vantablack is so dark because it is a forest of vertical Y. When light enters the material, it gets trapped between the structures of the Y and bounces around until it is converted into heat. Thus Vantablack absorbs 99.965% of radiation. Name Y.

QUESTION 4
A black hole isn't actually black or a hole. It is a region of space where gravity is so strong that the escape velocity exceeds that of light. In fact, black holes may emit faint amounts of energy called _____ _____. If a black hole were small enough, it would actually be white-hot. Fill in the blanks.



VISUAL: Name this arachnid. It sports super-black patches on its skin to make the surrounding colours appear up to 20-times brighter. JÜRGEN OTTO (CC BY-SA)

Answers to June 4 quiz:

1. The phenomenon where light is magnified by gravity – **Ans: Gravitational lensing**

2. Spacecraft designed to be pushed forward by light – **Ans: Light-sail**

3. Light that appears nears surfaces, fades rapidly away from it – **Ans: Evanescent waves**

4. How light's electric field moves when it's circularly polarised – **Ans: Rotates**

5. Space acquired this property due to ultra-strong magnetic fields – **Ans: Birefringent**

Visual: **Rayleigh scattering**

First contact: Utsav Kaushal Ranjan | Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Shreya Kapoor | Anmol Agrawal

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Railways, PSUs among bodies owing ₹75 cr. property tax

Civic bodies have struggled to collect property tax from govt. agencies and PSUs, as many cases were stuck over claims of exemptions, pending clarifications, and disagreements

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

More than ₹75 crore in property tax dues linked to public sector undertakings (PSUs), government departments, and public institutions are set to come under the North City corporation's recovery radar, as the corporation has decided to collect tax and revisit long-standing disputes over tax exemptions and payment adjustments. The dues involve agencies including Railways, BESCOM, BWSSB, BMRCL, BMTC, BSNL and Defence establishments.

According to corporation officials, civic bodies have struggled to collect property tax from government agencies and PSUs, as many cases were stuck over claims of exemptions, pending clarifications, and disagreements on how the dues should be settled. As a result, several demands remained pending despite repeated follow-ups.

The dues involve agencies including Railways, Bescom, BWSSB, BMRCL, BMTC, BSNL, and Defence establishments. FILE PHOTO

The corporation has now decided to take a stricter approach by asking agencies to pay the property tax dues even if disputes remain unresolved. Officials said issues relating to adjustments or other claims can be addressed separately, but the tax liability itself must be paid in the meantime.

Records accessed by *The Hindu* show that the pending demands span a wide range of public agencies. Among the larger entries are ₹29.6 crore by the Wheel and Axle Factory in Yelahanka, ₹2.66 crore against Air Force quarters in Shettihalli, and ₹1.72 crore against Railway Wheel Factory residential quarters in Yelahanka New Town. The list also includes properties belonging to BMTC, BWSSB, BSNL, police departments, postal authorities, and other government institutions across the city.

The records further show that many of these demands are not recent. Several government residential colonies and institutional properties have pending dues dating back more than a decade. Officials said the duration and nature of the disputes vary from department to department, making recovery difficult. North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said that earlier too attempts were made to improve collections from PSUs towards the end of the financial year, but the exercise yielded only partial success.

He said the Railways maintain they are exempt from paying property tax altogether, so they refuse to make payments. Agencies like BESCOM, BWSSB, and BMRCL accept that they do owe some amount, but instead of paying in cash, they often suggest settling the dues through "book adjustments" – an internal accounting method where money is adjusted between government bodies instead of actual payments being made. However, the corporation has rejected such book adjustment mechanisms in the current approach, Mr. Kumar clarified, insisting on actual tax payments.

Shops in Padarayanapura were shut on Monday as supporters of B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan staged a protest, seeking a ministerial position for him in D.K. Shivakumar's Cabinet. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Protesters demand Zameer be made Dy. Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tension prevailed in Padarayanapura on Monday as hundreds of supporters of B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Chamarajpet Congress MLA, took to the streets demanding that Mr. Khan be appointed Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka. The protest was led by former city councillor Imran Pasha.

Mr. Khan held charge of the Housing and Minority Welfare Departments in the Siddaramaiah-led government from 2023-26. He was not among the 13 new Ministers inducted into Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's Cabinet on June 3. On Monday, the protesters gathered in large numbers in front of Mr. Pasha's office in Padarayanapura and sought to march to Vidhana Soudha to press for their demand. They reportedly shut down shops and commercial establishments in and around Padarayanapura.

According to the police, the organisers had earlier sought permission to hold the protest, but the request was denied. Anticipating a law-and-order situation, authorities deployed a large contingent of police personnel in the area. As the crowd gathered and attempted to march towards Vidhana Soudha, the police intervened and detained several protesters.

A senior police officer said the situation was quickly brought under control and remained peaceful throughout. The police later released the detained protesters.

Mr. Khan has been involved in a controversy over his alleged role in the recent Davangare South bypoll, where the Muslim community demanded the Congress ticket, but the party fielded a Lingayat candidate. A purported audio recording where he was allegedly heard talking to a local leader against the Congress was recently leaked on social media. But Mr. Khan has denied that it is his voice.

Bus hits median in Manipal

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A school bus hit a road median in Manipal on Monday, after the driver reportedly suffered chest pain while driving. The students on board escaped unhurt.

The Udupi traffic police said the driver, Suresh Sannakkibettu worked for Madhava Kripa School.

The accident occured when the driver was attempting to pull over to the roadside and reportedly lost control of the vehicle.

GBA directs immediate pothole repairs, claims 70% desilting of storm-water drains complete

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With monsoon showers exposing Bengaluru's perennial road and drainage problems, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Monday said officials have been directed to deploy pothole-filling machines and ensure roads across the city are made pothole-free at the earliest.

Speaking to reporters after reviewing white-topping and buffer road projects, Mr. Rao said the highest number of complaints received so far relates to flooding. He said GBA has identified and inspected major stormwater drains along nearly 1,500 kms of arterial roads and completed around 70% of desilting works to prevent flooding. "We have instructed officials to continue the work until all identified areas are covered. So far, there have been no major instances of flooding," he said.

Following recent rains, officials have been instructed to use pothole-filling machines and cold-mix material such as Ecofix to carry out repairs. FILE PHOTO

Following recent rains, more than 80 locations requiring immediate intervention have been identified. Mr. Rao said officials have been instructed to use pothole-filling machines and cold-mix material such as Ecofix to carry out repairs. Batch-mix plants will also be used where required, while a more intensive pothole repair drive will be undertaken once weather conditions improve, he said.

He said all corporations have been directed to address complaints immediately, whether received through the app or directly from residents. Most of the identified flooding-prone locations are in the Central, South and North corporations, and the traffic police have also been informed to coordinate response measures.

Property tax collection crosses ₹3,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Property tax collections under the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) have crossed ₹3,000 crore as of June, up from around ₹2,800 crore collected during the corresponding period last year, GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao said.

Speaking on e-Khata and pointing out that a large number of complaints had been received regarding e-Khata changes, correction of names and rectification of other property details, Mr. Rao directed the corporations to assign responsibility for e-Khata corrections to Deputy Commissioners to expedite disposal of pending applications and complaints. He also instructed officials to improve the correction module, speed up the issuance of corrected e-Khatas and ensure quicker resolution of grievances.

AAP releases 'Green Agenda' ahead of GBA elections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday released its "Green Agenda" manifesto for Bengaluru ahead of the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) elections, outlining the roadmap to make the city greener, cleaner and more livable.

Releasing the manifesto during a press conference, Rituraj Govind Jha, Karnataka-in-charge, AAP, said Bengaluru, once known as the "Garden City", is currently grappling with a range of civic and environmental challenges. Arguing that these problems were the result of decades of governance that prioritised the interests of influential lobby groups, Mr. Jha called on citizens to support AAP candidates in the forthcoming GBA elections, adding that the city needed a political alternative.

A view of the Greater Bengaluru Authority building in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

AAP National Organising Secretary Prithvi Reddy said that "garbage and water mafias" had entrenched themselves in waste management and water supply systems, while a politician-contractor nexus was leading to poor-quality public works and misuse of public funds. He also accused land and construction lobbies of encroaching on lakes and stormwater drains, aggravating flooding, and environmental degradation.

State president H.N. Chandrashekhar, popularly known as 'Mukhyamantri' Chandru, said urban planning, infrastructure development and environmental protection should be guided by public interest rather than private profit. Linking issues such as traffic congestion, disappearing lakes, unsafe roads and declining trees cover and their impact on residents' daily lives and health, he said "Save Bengaluru" campaign is a people's movement.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUN. 16	
RISE	05:54 SET 18:47
RISE	06:53 SET 20:20
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 17	
RISE	05:54 SET 18:47
RISE	08:01 SET 21:17
THURSDAY, JUN. 18	
RISE	05:54 SET 18:47
RISE	09:05 SET 22:07

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of protesters executed in Iran in 2026

18 Iran has executed at least 40 people, including 18 protesters, on "national security grounds" since the start of 2026, the United Nations said on Monday. UN rights chief Volker Turk said he felt "deeply for the people in Iran, caught between war and cruel repression". Iran executes more people annually than any other nation besides China, according to rights groups. AFP

Percentage rise in India's exports in May 2026

18 in per cent. The country's merchandise exports rose 18% to $45.2 billion, according to the commerce ministry data. Imports, too, grew 20.62% to $73.41 billion in May, leaving a trade deficit of $28.21 billion. India's merchandise exports rose to $88.91 billion during April-May 2026-27, marking a 16.09% growth over the corresponding period last year. PTI

Drone-strike deaths in Sudan in first five months of 2026

1,000 The UN rights chief on Monday condemned a "sharp increase" in the use of drone warfare in conflict-torn Sudan, where more than 1,000 civilians were killed in such strikes in the first five months of this year. Drone warfare has become an increasingly prominent feature of Sudan's conflict since it erupted in April 2023. AFP

Number of persons killed in Haiti gang violence this year

2,300 Gang violence has killed at least 2,300 people in Haiti this year, while nearly 100 have been kidnapped, the United Nations said on Monday. UN human rights chief Volker Turk called on the authorities to tackle the rampant impunity in the crisis-ravaged Caribbean nation of 12 million people. AFP

Amount allocated for Bengal under VB-G RAM G scheme

8,508 in ₹ crore. West Bengal has been allocated ₹8,508 crore under the scheme for the 2026-27 financial year, according to figures released by the Union government. Under the Gram Sadak Yojana, allocations worth ₹2,400 crore have been approved and ₹1,000 crore released by the Centre. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Drone revolution and modern warfare

The wars in Ukraine, Lebanon and West Asia have shown how drones have become central to modern warfare; as cheap, mass-produced unmanned systems proliferate, military power is increasingly shaped by industrial scale, technological adaptation and the ability to build, deploy and counter drones

EXPLAINER

Rahul Bedi

For decades, military power has been defined by the scale and sophistication of conventional arsenals – combat aircraft, tanks, artillery, warships, air-defence systems, precision-guided missiles, and other high-end assets.

End of superiority

In this environment, battlefield superiority belonged to armies with technologically advanced platforms and equipment, sophisticated intelligence networks, and large budgets. Smaller militaries and non-state actors, by contrast, were largely confined to asymmetric tactics that relied on guerrilla warfare, ambushes, and other unconventional methods to offset their opponents' superior firepower and operational dominance.

But the ongoing wars in Ukraine and Lebanon, together with the wider U.S.-Israel-Iran theatre of conflict, have irrevocably shattered this paradigm, demonstrating that commercially derived drones – mass-produced at scale, rapidly reconfigured for multiple operational roles, and widely deployed – have become a defining feature of contemporary warfare. Performing functions ranging from intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and target acquisition to precision strikes, artillery spotting, electronic warfare, and logistics support, they have evolved from auxiliary assets into central instruments of military operations.

In doing so, they have transformed the 21st-century battlespace into an environment of persistent visibility and rapid engagement, where front lines remain continuously exposed, and rear areas can no longer be assumed secure, as multiple types of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) can locate, track, and strike targets with unprecedented speed and precision.

Across these concurrent theatres of conflict, the widespread – and in some cases decisive – employment of drones has challenged established assumptions about how military power is generated and applied, reshaping doctrine, force structures, and future warfighting concepts. The consequence has been the emergence of a continuous and interconnected battlespace in which no position is truly beyond reach, and no movement can safely assume it will remain concealed for long, as detection is increasingly followed by rapid engagement and destruction.

Ukraine drone war

Nowhere has this transformation been more visible than in Ukraine, where Russia's 'Special Military Operation' launched in February 2022, as a conventional war involving combat aircraft, tanks and artillery, evolved within two years into the world's first industrial-scale, drone-intensive conflict.

From the earliest stages of the Russian invasion, Ukraine rapidly adapted commercially available drones – originally designed for civilian purposes such as aerial photography, mapping, and basic surveillance – alongside a limited number of pre-existing military Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) assets into improvised reconnaissance and strike systems.

What had initially functioned as a support tool for intelligence gathering and guiding artillery fire quickly evolved into a decisive combat capability, as small quadcopters and First-Person View (FPV) drones were progressively weaponised and deployed as low-cost, precision-guided munitions. This shift marked a fundamental transformation in how unmanned systems were used on the battlefield: from passive information-gathering platforms to active instruments of destruction. By around 2024, drones had become fully integrated into almost every layer of Ukrainian combat, ranging from tactical battlefield surveillance to frontline targeting and deep-strike missions against logistics hubs, supply routes, and rear-area infrastructure.

From the earliest stages of Russian invasion, Ukraine adapted commercially available drones. FILE PHOTO

The operational template that emerged from this experience in Ukraine was subsequently replicated, albeit to varying degrees and in different forms, across the continuing West Asian conflicts, underscoring the growing centrality of drones to contemporary warfare.

FPV revolution

At the heart of Ukraine's drone revolution is the FPV system – an inexpensive, commercially available platform originally designed for recreational racing and aerial photography. Controlled through a live video feed transmitted from an onboard camera to virtual-reality-style goggles worn by their operators, FPV systems offer exceptional precision, manoeuvrability, and responsiveness.

These were then rapidly transformed into a broad spectrum of combat systems, including FPV strike drones, bombers, interceptors, and long-range attack variants. Among the most prominent are heavy-lift hexacopter Vampire drones – nicknamed "Baba Yaga" by Russian forces after the fearsome figure from Slavic folklore – alongside a vast number of improvised modular platforms, assembled in multiple workshops across Ukraine.

The most common are FPV kamikaze or strike drones, inexpensive quadcopters carrying explosive payloads such as modified rocket-propelled grenade warheads or purpose-built munitions, flown directly into targets as disposable precision-guided missiles. Their extremely low cost has radically reshaped battlefield economics which enable systems worth only a few hundred dollars to destroy armoured vehicles and equipment valued in the millions.

These systems operate within a broader Ukrainian deep-strike drone architecture that includes loitering munitions such as RAM II and UJ-31 Zozulya. The latter functions as an aerially deployed "parasite drone," carried by the Ukrainian-designed multi-purpose UJ-22 Airborne long-range UAV's, enabling penetration of contested airspace under intensive electronic warfare conditions and extending operational reach. RAM II, by contrast, is a short-range precision loitering munition employed in coordination with reconnaissance drones like the locally developed Shark and PD-2, with improved variants offering greater range and endurance to expand their engagement envelope against air defence systems and rear-area targets.

Also included within Ukraine's expanding drone inventory are bomber drones – largely adapted from commercial DJI Mavic 3 and DJI Matrice 300 RTK quadcopter platforms originally designed for aerial photography, surveying and industrial applications – which carry and release grenades, anti-tank mines and improvised munitions. Unlike kamikaze systems, they survive missions and can conduct multiple sorties, making them particularly effective against trenches, bunkers and other static positions.

Alongside these, Ukraine fields FPV-based strike systems like Pegasus and long-range, one-way attack drones designed to strike deep inside Russian territory against logistics hubs, airbases and critical infrastructure, far beyond the frontline. In practice, however, the distinction between FPV strike drones and loitering munitions has become increasingly blurred, with many FPV-based thermal and night-vision-equipped variants for round-the-clock operations.

But, Ukraine's most significant innovation has been the emergence of fibre-optic FPV drones, an electronic warfare (EW)-resistant class of systems. Unlike conventional drones, which rely on radio-frequency links vulnerable to jamming, these platforms transmit commands and video through ultra-thin fibre-optic cables that spool out during flight, rendering electronic interference largely ineffective. In heavily contested electromagnetic environments, this capability restores a significant operational advantage to drone operators by enabling missions to be conducted largely free from electronic disruption.

Regional drone networks

Meanwhile, unlike Ukraine, Hezbollah's offensive UAS capability is primarily built around Iranian-supplied platforms with limited local modification, relying heavily on systems like Ababil, Mohajer, and Shahed series. These platforms provide a layered operational architecture spanning ISR and strike functions. Within this framework, the Mohajer-4 and Shahed-129 provide tiered-ISR coverage across medium- to long-ranges, while the Shahed-136 loitering munition fulfils a 'dedicated' one-way strike role across a wider regional theatre.

More recently, Hezbollah has also adopted jamming-resistant fibre-optic FPV drones, enabling operations in heavily contested electromagnetic environments and enhancing close-range reconnaissance and precision strike effectiveness despite extensive Israeli EW measures.

In response, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) in Lebanon have developed a layered counter-drone architecture, integrating EW systems, specialised radar arrays, and experimental platforms like the AI-enabled Iron Drone Raider, designed to neutralise low-altitude UAVs through kinetic, non-explosive interception methods such as net capture – by which a physical net is deployed to entangle and disable an incoming drone mid-air – or direct collision, rather than costly missile engagements. Alongside this, the IDF operates a multi-tiered UAV force structure combining long-endurance Heron systems for persistent ISR with armed drones and loitering munitions integrated into reconnaissance-strike complexes for rapid engagement.

Iran, for its part, constitutes a third and structurally distinct model of drone warfare.

Rather than employing drones solely as tactical assets, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) integrates them into a broader strategy of deterrence, coercion, and power projection against the U.S.-Israel combine and their regional partners across West Asia.

Through indigenous systems such as Shahed drone variants, alongside platforms supplied to proxy forces across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, the IRGC has demonstrated an ability to threaten military bases, critical infrastructure, and naval assets across West Asia at relatively low cost.

Economy shift

Thus, across ongoing wars and conflicts, the drone revolution is defined as much by economics as technology. Cheap, mass-produced unmanned systems are swiftly and irreversibly replacing reliance on expensive platforms, complex logistics, and specialised military structures, shifting the advantage toward the scale, speed, and production capacity of UAS ecosystems.

Warfare, therefore, is increasingly becoming a test of industrial endurance and relentless technological adaptation, where success depends on the ability to build, deploy, and counter fast-evolving, continuously reconfigured drone systems. And, in this rapidly evolving battlespace, drones are no longer just weapons, but the very infrastructure of modern-day war – shaping how conflicts are surveilled, fought, sustained, and ultimately decided.

(Rahul Bedi is a journalist based in New Delhi and Chandigarh specialising in military, defence and security matters)

THE GIST

- Ukraine has pioneered industrial-scale drone warfare, integrating FPV drones, loitering munitions, bomber drones and fibre-optic systems across reconnaissance, targeting and deep-strike missions.
- Low-cost FPV strike drones have transformed battlefield economics, enabling systems worth a few hundred dollars to destroy armoured vehicles and equipment valued in the millions.
- The widespread adoption of drones has challenged traditional assumptions about military power, creating a continuous battlespace where detection is increasingly followed by rapid engagement and destruction.

Climate change, social isolation heighten risks for elderly, finds study

78% of respondents had experienced at least one climate-related hazard in the last three years, with heatwave, flood, and drought being the most commonly reported events

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dignitaries launching the Climate Resilient Ageing - Ensuring Care, Dignity and Agency report at the Indian Institute of World Culture in Bengaluru on Monday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Older persons in rural India are increasingly bearing the brunt of climate change, with heatwaves, floods, and droughts compounding existing challenges of poor health, financial insecurity, and social isolation, according to a study released by HelpAge India on Monday.

The report, Climate Resilient Ageing - Ensuring Care, Dignity and Agency, released in Bengaluru on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, surveyed 2,224 elderly persons across 20 districts in 10 States, including Karnataka. It found that 78% of respondents had experienced at least one climate-related hazard in the last three years, with heatwave (45%), flood (27%) and drought (20%) being the most commonly reported events.

More than one-third of those affected said climate events had a moderate to severe impact on their lives. The study noted that older persons living alone, widows, those aged over 80 years, and individuals with cognitive, communication or mental health difficulties faced disproportionately higher risks.

Heat stress emerged as a major concern. Nearly 60% of respondents said their homes were not fully safe during extreme heat conditions. While 90% reported staying indoors, and 81% reported increased water intake during heatwaves, 74% experienced illness, and 44% reported worsening of existing health conditions. One-third said accessing healthcare became more difficult during such periods. The study highlighted significant health and economic vulnerabilities. Nearly half of the respondents reported long-term impairments, mainly related to mobility (32%) and vision (24%). More than half (52%) said they were unable to afford essential medicines.

Government healthcare facilities continue to be the primary source of medical care, with 51% relying on Primary Health Centres, and 49% on government hospitals.

Family support remains the backbone of elderly care, the report found. About 73% of respondents lived with children or relatives, while 94% of those requiring care received support from family members. Sons, spouses and daughters-in-law were the main caregivers.

However, migration is placing increasing strain on these support systems. Nearly 18% of households reported that a family member had migrated for work, with sons accounting for three-fourths of such migration. Among older persons living alone, 38% depended on neighbours for care, while 16% reported receiving no support at all.

Economic insecurity also remains widespread. While pension was the primary source of income for 49% of respondents, 16% reported having neither employment nor any source of income. The proportion of elderly persons without work or income increased from 11% among those aged 60-69 years to 21% among those aged over 80 years. The study found high awareness of welfare programmes such as the Public Distribution System, pension, subsidised healthcare and housing schemes. However, barriers, including poor health, lack of education, long waiting periods and digital access challenges, continued to affect access to benefits.

HelpAge India Chief Executive Officer Rohit Prasad said older persons remained largely invisible in climate adaptation and disaster response efforts despite being among the most vulnerable groups.

KRV opposes railway promotion exam without Kannada option, warns of stir

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On March 17, Railways postponed its departmental recruitment examinations after members of the KRV raised objections.

The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV), a Kannada organisation, has strongly objected to the South Western Railway's decision to conduct a promotion examination without providing Kannada as a language option and has warned of State-wide protests if the issue is not addressed.

On March 17, earlier this year, Railways postponed its departmental recruitment examinations after members of KRV raised similar objections against the tests being conducted exclusively in English and Hindi.

In a press statement issued on Monday, KRV president T.A. Narayana Gowda alleged that the railway authorities were denying Kannada-speaking employees the opportunity to write the examination in their mother tongue. He termed the move a violation of the linguistic rights of Kannadigas and demanded immediate intervention by the Railway Board and the South Western Railway administration.

According to Mr. Gowda, the examination question papers are being prepared only in English and Hindi. He argued that hundreds of Kannada-speaking railway employees eligible for promotion would be disadvantaged as they would not be able to take the examination in Kannada.

Mr. Gowda said that Kannada is the official language of Karnataka and alleged that while regional languages are accommodated in other States, Kannada continues to be ignored in railway recruitment and promotion examinations conducted in Karnataka. He described the move as discriminatory and called for all railway recruitment and promotion tests in the State to be conducted in Kannada as well.

The organisation has urged the authorities to either cancel the June 25 examination or postpone it until Kannada is included as an examination language.

Two killed in road accident; kin donates their eyes

Ashwini, 31, a resident of Kantanakunte village and Sahana, 22, a resident of Aruvanahalli, were killed in accidents.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two women riding a scooter to work were killed in a road accident that occurred on Obadenahalli Road in the Bashettihalli Industrial Area of Doddaballapur taluk on Monday.

Eyes donated

The families of both deceased women donated their eyes to the eye bank at Dr. Rajkumar Eye Bank.

The deceased have been identified as Ashwini, 31, a resident of Kantanakunte village, and Sahana, 22, a resident of Aruvanahalli.

According to the police, the accident took place at around 8.30 a.m. A tempo traveller allegedly collided with their bike.

Two killed in separate road accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 54-year-old school teacher was killed after falling from a bike taxi in J.P. Nagar on Sunday night. The deceased has been identified as Radha, a resident of Arakere and a teacher at a private school. The bike taxi rider, a young woman, sustained minor injuries and is out of danger.

Radha had booked a bike taxi to travel from Nagarbhavi to her residence in Arakere. At around 8 p.m., while passing near Nandini Junction on the 24th Main Road in J.P. Nagar, she reportedly lost balance and fell from the moving scooter and suffered fatal injuries since she was wearing a 'half helmet'. She succumbed to her injuries en route to the hospital. The J.P. Nagar Traffic Police have registered a case.

In another incident, a 34-year-old scooter rider was killed and his pillion rider injured after a garbage lorry allegedly hit their two-wheeler near Sirsi Circle on Monday morning. The deceased was identified as Satish while the injured pillion rider, Praveen, is undergoing treatment and is said to be out of danger.

According to the police, Satish was riding a scooter with Praveen riding pillion and was on his way to work. As they approached the circle, the garbage lorry allegedly rammed the scooter.

Satish reportedly came under the wheels of the lorry and died on the spot, while Praveen sustained injuries.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JINAT Jeelani Halli, d/o Jeelani born on 15/08/2007 r/o Devarahippargi Vijayapura, have changed my name to Zeenat Halli vide affidavit dated 10–06–2026 at Vijayapura.

I, SANTOSH Devi mother of Rajesh, R/O. H No.1, VPO-Panchi Jattan, Tehsil Ganaur, Dist-Sonipet, Haryana-131 102, today in Bengaluru, have changed my name from Santosh Devi to Santosh vide affidavit dt:04-05-2026 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAMSHER Singh father of Rajesh, R/O. H No.1, VPO-Panchi Jattan, Tehsil Ganaur, Dist-Sonipet, Haryana-131 102, today in Bengaluru, have changed my name from Shamsher Singh to Shamsher vide affidavit dated 04-05-2026 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed.

TENDERS

TENDER NOTICE

NIT,
Gongri Hydro Electric Project -144 MW (2 Units X 72 MW)
Tender No.: DEPL /GONGRI HEP /2026
(INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

"EPC Execution of Civil, Hydro Mechanical & Electro-Mechanical works including Infrastructure works of Gongri Hydro Electric Project (144 MW) in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, India".

DIRANG ENERGY PVT LTD. having its registered office at Patel Estate Road, Jogeshwari (West), Mumbai-400102, is developing Gongri Hydro Electric Project (144 MW), West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh, hereinafter referred to as the "DEPL/ Developer". WALMAN INFRA & ENERGY PVT. LTD. having its corporate office at 408, 4th floor Ansal Tower -38, Nehru Place, New Delhi -110019, has been authorized to act on behalf of DEPL to invite bids, evaluate and recommend the lowest evaluated responsive bidder to DEPL for awarding the aforesaid work, hereinafter referred to as the "WALMAN/Consultant".

Walman Infra & Energy Pvt Ltd invites bids from prospective bidders fulfilling the Qualifying Requirement under Single-Stage Three-Envelope bidding system through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route for "EPC execution of Civil, Hydro mechanical & Electro-mechanical works including Infrastructure works of Gongri Hydro Electric Project (144 MW) in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, India".

For the eligibility criteria and other details, the interested bidders may visit websites www.walmanco.com.

Sale of Bid document is from 22nd June 2026 to 6th August 2026 and Last date for submission of bids is 10th August 2026 by 14:00 Hours IST.

Further, E-mails /Correspondences can be marked to the Vice President (Projects) at walmantenders@gmail.com & Contact No: +91-11-44798339

Dated : 16th June 2026 Vice President (Projects)

Developer : DIRANG ENERGY PVT LTD (DEPL)
Consultant : WALMAN INFRA & ENERGY Pvt. Ltd (WALMAN)

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE LV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE, (CCH-56) AT BANGALORE
P & S. C. NO. 276 / 2026

1. GIRISH GOPALKRISHNA PAI, S/o. Late Gopalkrishna Pai, aged about 51 years, no. 40, "GEETHGOPAL", 3rd cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Annasandra Palya, Vimanapura, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru – 560 017.
2. GANESH G. PAI, S/o. Late Gopalkrishna Pai, aged about 48 years, Flat No. 113, Block "D" Samrudha Sandoval, Next To Sri Rama Samrudhi Kundalahalli Gate, Tubarahalli, Whitefield Road, Bengaluru – 560 066.

Nil -VS- Respondent/s

PUBLIC NOTICE

The above named Petitioners have filed the above petition under section 372 of the Indian Succession Act 1925 for grant of Legal Succession Certificate in the name of First Petitioner, SRI. GIRISH GOPALKRISHNA PAI with respect to the shares jointly held by their deceased parents with M/S. STOCK HOLDING CORPORATION OF INDIA, at its Jayanagara Branch, Bengaluru – 560 011 having Client ID No. 15013226 under Non-House Beneficiary Category in D'MAT account having DPID No. IN 301127 as detailed below:

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Free hold Shares held as on 11-02-2026 in the D'MAT account of Late Geetha G. Pai, W/o. Gopalkrishna Pai, jointly with her husband, Late GOPALKRISHNA Pai, S/o. Late Laxman Pai with Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd., Shop No. 7, 1st Floor, No. 44, 33rd Cross, Jayanagar, 4th T Block, BENGALURU – 560 011, having Client ID No. 15013226 under Non-House Beneficiary Category in D'MAT account - DPID No. IN 301127 as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION OF SHARES-	ISIN	Qty
1	INE 389A01019 - BST LTD EQ - 100.00		
2	INE 880A01017 - KESORAM TEXT MILLS LTD EQ. - 40.00		
3	INE 018A01030 - L.&T. LTD EQ. - 202.00		
4	INE 239A01024 - NESLE INDIA LTD EQ. - 900.00		
5	INE 503B01021 - STEEL EXCHANGE INDIA LTD.EQ. - 70.00		
6	INE 519C01017 - SUMMIT SECURITIES - 1.00		

If any person claiming to the estate of the deceased, they may appear before the Hon'ble LV Addl. City Civil & Session Judge Court at Bangalore (CCH -56) on 13th day of July month of 2026 at 11.00 A.M. either in person or through the authorised Counsel. If fail to appear, the same will be heard and determined as exparte.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court on 11th day of June month of 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sd/-
CITY CIVIL COURT
Bengaluru

Sd/-
NARJI A. SADANANDA, Advocate
No. 41, Second Floor 1st Main Road, Nagendra Block, BSK 1st Stage, Srinagara, Bengaluru – 560 050

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer,
C.V. Ramannagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th 'A' Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560038.

No: EE/CVR/KPPP/03/2026-27 Date: 12-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, BCCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP / KPWD / CPWD / Railway / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organization for the works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-2)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	Improvements, Asphalting and Construction of CC Roads, Drains and Culverts below Wards
	General Works (Call-2) - (Others)
1	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - PSK Naidu Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
2	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Gajendranagara and Old Bayapanahalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
3	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Kalahalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
4	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Pilla Reddy Nagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
5	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Sadanandanagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
6	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - B. Channasandra. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 35.00, EMD (in Rs.): 70,000.00**
7	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Krishnaiahnapalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
8	Ward No. 110, C.V. Ramannagara - Rahat Bagh. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
9	Ward No.110, C.V. Ramannagara-Suddagunte Palya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
10	Ward No.110, C.V. Ramannagara-Suddagunte Palya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
11	Ward No. 110, C.V. Ramannagara - Vartur Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
12	Ward No. 110, C.V. Ramannagara - Sanjeevappa. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
13	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Malleshpalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
14	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Surrounding. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
15	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Varsova Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 80,000.00**
16	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Balaji Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000.00**
17	Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara - Michel Palya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
18	Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhima Nagara - Baba Saheb Colony. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
19	Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhima Nagara - PWD Quarters. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
20	Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhima Nagara - Kodihalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
21	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - Vinayakanagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
22	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara-Muniyellappa Garden. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
23	Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara - Defence Colony. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00**
24	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - BDA Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00**
	SC / ST Category - (Call-2)
25	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Gover Road, Charles Cambell Road & M.M Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 45.00, EMD (in Rs.): 45,000.00**
26	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Thimmaiah Garden, Nanjundappa Garden. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00**
27	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Lalbahadur Nagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 35.00, EMD (in Rs.): 35,000.00**
28	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Malleshpalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00**
29	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Chaitanya School. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
30	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Malleshpalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00**
31	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - LIC Colony and Geethanjali Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
32	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - G.M Palya and Byrasandra. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
33	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - 515 Colony and Venkateshwara Layout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
34	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - Bank Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00**
35	Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara - Murugesh Palya, A.K. Colony and Cauvery Nagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
36	Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra - Surrounding. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
37	Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara - Cauvery School. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 100.00, EMD (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00**
	CATEGORY-I (Call-2)
38	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - New Bayapanahalli and Adjacent Roads. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000.00**
39	Ward No. 114, Jeevan Bhima Nagara - Anandapura. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
40	Ward No. 114, Jeevan Bhima Nagara - HAL 2nd Stage. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**
	CATEGORY-II(A) (Call-2)
41	Ward No. 108, Cox Town - Kallpalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000.00**
42	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Chikkabanasawadi. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00**
43	Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli - Surrounding Area. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 20,000.00**
44	Ward No. 110, C.V. Raman Nagara - Nagavarapalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 40.00, EMD (in Rs.): 40,000.00**
45	Ward No. 110, C.V. Raman Nagara - Kaggadasapura Road. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00**
46	Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura - Surrounding Area. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 30,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 17-06-2026. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **25-06-2026 at 3.30 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Raman Nagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th 'A' Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560038. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document: **02-07-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **03-07-2026 after 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
C.V. Ramannagara Division, BCCC.

‘The U.S. govt. policy is to systematically cut off any source of income to Cuba’

Mitchell Valdes-Sosa, one of the architects of Cuba’s biotechnology strategy, says U.S. sanctions are straining the country’s healthcare and biotech sectors; however, Cuba is prioritising key research and expanding international collaboration to keep its biotech industry functioning, he adds

INTERVIEW

Mitchell Valdes-Sosa

Vasudevan Mukunth
Srinivasan Ramani

Mitchell Valdes-Sosa. X/@JOHANATABLADA

The Cuban healthcare and biotechnology sectors – crown jewels of the country’s revolution – today find themselves at breaking point thanks to the U.S. campaign of economic strangulation. Washington DC has also intensified pressure on the Global South to dismantle Cuban medical missions. For the first time in decades, the island’s renowned health indicators are wavering and its factories are often paralysed by power cuts and resource shortages.

Navigating this intersection of high-level science and survival is Mitchell Valdes-Sosa, General Director of the Cuban Center for Neuroscience and a member emeritus of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. Dr. Valdes-Sosa is one of the architects of Cuba’s biotechnological strategy and an advisor to the Minister of Science. He recently answered questions from *The Hindu* about how his country and compatriots are negotiating the crisis. Excerpts:

Washington DC has intensified its campaign to discredit Cuba’s medical internationalism, applying pressure on other countries to cancel cooperation agreements. How is the Cuban administration responding?

The U.S. is trying to scare countries into not collaborating with Cuba. Cuba has had doctors in over 62 countries, always serving areas that have little access to medical services. The people of many countries really appreciate this help. But the U.S. has said that if any health official in any country hires Cuban doctors, the U.S. will sanction them. Several countries have buckled under this. The U.S. says there’s forced labour, which is false. Doctors who go abroad from Cuba have higher salaries than doctors in Cuba. The vast majority agree to this kind of work because it is a source of income for buying supplies for Cuban hospitals. So the real reason the U.S., which has benefited from sweatshops, cheap labour and exploitation around the world, wants to disrupt this international collaboration is that it is a source of income to Cuba and the U.S. government policy is to systematically cut off any source of income to starve the country into submission.

The second reason is that this international collaboration has won many admirers around the world, including Cuba’s friends. And it’s a form of noble diplomacy, not the military-threat-based diplomacy of the U.S. Countries in the Global South must resist U.S. pressures because this is an intervention into Cuba’s, into many countries’ internal affairs.

They really would like to see Cuba’s pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries affected. It would contribute to a deterioration of social conditions and create suffering in the Cuban population. Second, they do not conceive of a biotechnological industry that is not for profit as the main goal. We’re resisting. We’re in first place, making the green transition in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. We’re optimising production strategies. And we’re increasing collaboration with other countries, especially the BRICS countries. Through international collaboration and making optimal use of the resources we do have, we’re struggling to keep the biotechnological industry of Cuba functioning and at the service of its people.

The new General Law defines science as a “public good at the service of socialism” but also highlights the need for institutional “innovation management”. How will this law balance state-directed priorities like food sovereignty with the intellectual autonomy required for biotech breakthroughs?

Cuba is opening parts of its economy to the private sector and in the field of biotechnology and of neurotechnology and other services, it’s developing a [new] arrangement. For example, the care of old people has been decentralised, and they’re now cooperatives or private companies that are providing services for elderly people, which Cuba has a problem with. It’s a problem created by the success of its health system and social policies. Cubans are living much longer than before, and our demographic pyramid is inverted now because less children are being born. But the basic and most important factors of the biotech and pharmaceutical industry are state-owned. They will increasingly collaborate with the private sector, with external investors. The Cuban strategy is to [produce] medicines and pharmaceutical and biotechnological products where the important thing is not to make a lot of money. In the U.S., medicines are so expensive, and the reason is that the whole philosophy is not saving lives. The philosophy is making as much money as possible.

Intellectual autonomy, which is very important in science and biotech innovation, was fostered by Fidel Castro’s decision when he started promoting and directly intervening in the creation of new scientific centres with their factories. The basic idea was to give these centres maximum autonomy. And the biotech sector in Cuba, which is grouped in the organisation called BioCuba Pharma, is the most successful example of a decentralised organisation of companies, with autonomy to make strategic and tactical plans, and the ability to import and export directly with no intermediate entities. BioCuba Pharma has over 36 units and more than 20 joint ventures or joint laboratories across the world. They were created with the idea of what we call in Cuba “full cycle”. In other words, the same centre does basic research, applied research, and translational work. It has development and production facilities and its own commercial company.

Following discussions at BioHabana 2026 in May, how is the industry prioritising which molecules to move into clinical trials, given the scarcity of imported reagents and active pharmaceutical ingredients?

Anything that is a source of income for Cuba, the U.S. has targeted and tried to cut off. We have accepted this challenge because we need all these new treatments for the benefit of our population and for the benefit of the world population. One of the things we’re doing is concentrating resources, trying to prioritise projects that have the highest probability of success. Second, we’re intensifying all efforts for international collaboration. We’ve established with many countries joint research calls where the project is funded by each country in its own territory, but the projects are prepared together. They’re put together by scientists from the two countries that are in this arrangement. And then the results are shared. Cuba is now also creating joint research centres in other countries. This is a way of, despite the difficulties, having all the science that Cuba has developed, have all the science progress and reach final clinical stages so they can help people.

The 2026 National Science System pivot emphasises ‘One Health’, bridging human medicine with agricultural biotechnology. Given the severe food shortages today, are we seeing a temporary diversion of biotech talent and resources away from human oncology and towards bio-fertilizers and transgenic seeds?

It’s true that the Cuban national science system emphasises One Health. But this is not a diversion of biotech talents and resources away from, say, human oncology or other diseases. From the very moment the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology was created, Fidel Castro asked it to have two divisions. One is health and the other is biotechnology for agriculture and for animal health and food production. So there’s really no competition because for over 30 years, these have been two pillars of the work of the Center for Genetic Engineering. Fidel created in 1965 the National Research Center, which was a nursery where other centres were incubated. So all of the big centres now branched off from the National Research Centre. [Today] this is an ecosystem with a university and several research centres.

This has become increasingly important for Cuba because Cuba has to have food security. And [the centres have developed] transgenic variants of corn and soybeans, [are] working very closely with the agricultural sector of Cuba. So I say there’s no competition. It’s been cooperation. It’s complementary. And the One Health approach is important because as we saw with COVID-19 and with other diseases, the barrier between humans and other animals is very tenuous. But I repeat: this [has been] the whole strategy since Cuban biotechnology began.

Survival rates for childhood cancers in Cuba have reportedly dropped from 80% to 65% due to supply shortages. As a scientist, how do you navigate the ethical challenge of having the intellectual know-how to produce world-class treatments within the current energy and supply blockade?

Cuban infant mortality for over a decade was below 5 per 1,000 children, which is very good, even better than the U.S. However, all health indicators are suffering from the intense blockade because there are power cuts due to no electricity. The United States has blocked entry of oil to Cuba. This is severe. Childhood cancer survival has dropped from 80% to 65%. The infant mortality rate of 5.5 per 1,000 is now near 10. The U.S. is a bully. The moment anybody does business with Cuba, they try to scare them off. We have examples of very expensive equipment we bought from European countries, and then after a number of years, [companies from Europe] said, we can’t sell you spare parts because we’re afraid of U.S. sanctions. It’s illegal because the European Union does not recognise the U.S. sanctions. They can’t be extraterritorial. U.S. law cannot apply in Europe. But the individual companies are scared. So this is, as I said before, an attempt to starve Cuba almost to death. They’re trying to force us to submit to their policies and whatever they want. This is not going to happen.

I think the international scientific community can help with several things. First, they should express their anger against the U.S.’s inhumane policies against Cuba. All the scientists I speak with – American, European, Asian, African, South American – believe this is a horrible thing that the U.S. is doing to Cuba. The second thing is we need international collaboration. Things that we may not be able to finish in Cuba because of the lack of supplies and the power cuts but that are very advanced could be taken to the end by international collaboration. So the second thing we would ask of the international community is to promote agreements, like for example, joint calls for research, exchange of information, and to create joint research labs.

(Read the full interview here: newsth.live/mitchellvaldessosa)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the expression “to pass the buck”? (L. Suhasini, Cuttack)
When you “pass the buck”, you shift the responsibility for something to someone else. Our not-so-beloved politicians do this every day – especially when something goes wrong! Passing the buck implies putting the blame for something that has gone wrong on someone else. Instead of taking the blame yourself, you find a scapegoat and pin the blame on him.

For a change our Director didn’t pass the buck. He admitted that what he had done was wrong.

The word “buckpasser” is used to refer to a person who is unwilling to take responsibility for something. The word is used in informal contexts; it is considered to be slang.

Jai is the most irresponsible buckpasser I have had the misfortune to meet.

Like the expression “up the ante”, “pass the buck” is believed to have its origins at the card table. Some scholars are of the opinion that the word “buck” is the short form of either “buckshot” (a bullet) or “buckhorn knife”. The knife was so called because its handle was made out of a buck’s (a male deer) horn. When poker was played, one of these items was placed in front of the player who was acting as the “bank”. This person was usually the dealer. The buck knife or the buckshot informed everyone which player was responsible for looking after the bank. When the dealer changed, he would hand over this responsibility to someone else. He would do this by handing over the buck to someone else. He literally passed the “buck”!

It is also believed that later, a silver dollar coin was placed in front of the banker instead of a knife or a bullet. The coin became the “buck” and it is for this reason Americans refer to a dollar as a “buck”. It’s very common to hear Americans say, “Give me a couple of bucks, will you?” “I gave him a few bucks.”, etc.

What is the meaning of “deja vu”? (T. Sreenath, Nellore)
Sometimes when we visit a place for the first time, we have a funny feeling that we have been to the place before. There is a strange sense of familiarity about the place and we can’t really explain why we have this feeling. This is what the expression deja vu means. It is the feeling that you have that you have already experienced in the past the sequence of events that are happening to you now. You have the feeling of reliving the past.

What is the difference between complimentary and complementary? (E. Raju, Chennai)
Though the two words are pronounced the same way, there is a difference in meaning. The word “complimentary”, as you can probably guess, comes from the word “compliment”. When someone is complimentary, he usually expresses his admiration or respect for something that you have done or achieved.

When something is “complimentary”, it is given to you without charge.

The word “complementary”, on the other hand, comes from “complement”. When you complement someone, you combine well with him/her to form a whole. You may have qualities that the other person lacks, and the other person may have qualities that you lack. Together, the two of you complete each other.

Published in The Hindu on December, 19, 2000

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here is a quiz on major tech-related news that transpired last week

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
Which U.S. AI company has temporarily disabled access to some top-tier models after a government order restricting foreign access?

QUESTION 2
Which country announced plans for a social media ban for under-16s last week?

QUESTION 3
What initiative did Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron launch in Nice, France?

QUESTION 4
Which milestone did Elon Musk achieve following SpaceX’s IPO on June 12?

QUESTION 5
Recently, Apple unveiled a rebuilt Siri. Which external AI ecosystem is powering significant parts of the new experience?

QUESTION 6
Which Indian fintech firm confidentially filed papers for a $600 million IPO?

QUESTION 7
This embattled Indian edtech founder got some relief from a Singapore court regarding a contempt sentence. Name the person and the company associated?

Visual Question:
At Nintendo’s June Direct, the long-rumoured remake of which beloved N64-era video game was officially announced? AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz: 1. Who is widely believed to be the woman depicted in the Mona Lisa? **Ans: Lisa Gherardini del Giocondo, the wife of Florentine merchant Francesco del Giocondo**
2. Around what year is Leonardo da Vinci believed to have begun painting the Mona Lisa? **Ans: Around 1503**
3. What is the approximate size of the Mona Lisa? **Ans: About 77 cm × 53 cm (30 in × 21 in)**
4. Which artistic technique, heavily employed in the Mona Lisa, creates the painting’s characteristic soft transitions between light and shadow? **Ans: Sfumato**
5. Which French king acquired the Mona Lisa for the royal collection? **Ans: King Francis I of France**
6. What major event in 1911 dramatically increased the painting’s worldwide fame? **Ans: It’s theft from the Louvre by Vincenzo Peruggia**
Visual: Which Italian Renaissance master executed this sketch of a young woman before a landscape, believed to have been directly influenced by Leonardo’s Mona Lisa? **Ans: Raphael**
Early Birds: Prem Nath Tiwari | K.N. Viswanathan | Piyali Tuli | Tamal Biswas | Arun Kumar Singh

Word of the day

Slapdash:
in a careless or reckless manner

Synonyms: random, scattered, erratic

Usage: *His homework was done in a slapdash manner and was full of mistakes.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/slapdash

International Phonetic Alphabet: /slæpdæʃ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Text & Context’

Labhu Ram

Labhu Ram appointed as special officer to HM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Labhu Ram, a 2004 batch IPS officer, has been appointed as Special Officer to Home Minister Priyank Kharge, a special post created for the officer.

Retired IPS officer Kempaiah was an advisor to then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Mr. Labhu Ram, who was IGP (Central Range) was appointed as the State Intelligence Chief in April 2026, in an overnight change shunting out S. Ravi from that post. However, Chandragupta replaced Mr. Labhu Ram as the intelligence chief last week, after Mr. Siddaramaiah stepped down as Chief Minister and D.K. Shivakumar took charge.

Mr. Labhu Ram has also been posted as Inspector General of Police (IGP), Police Computer Wing, Bengaluru, replacing Director General of Police Pronab Mohanty, who headed the Wing till recently, until he was transferred as the chief of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Shakti smart cards to be issued under PPP model

Currently, women get free travel under the scheme by presenting a valid government-issued identity card to the conductor and obtaining a zero-fare ticket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Shakti scheme, launched on June 11, 2023, provides free travel for eligible passengers on non-premium services operated by State transport corporations. FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka government is set to roll out smart cards for beneficiaries of its flagship Shakti scheme, which provides free travel for women on non-premium State-run buses, under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, with women continuing to enjoy free travel benefits and receiving the cards free of cost.

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh said on Monday that the government was in the final stages of preparing the framework for issuing smart cards to more than two crore women who are eligible for free bus travel under the Shakti scheme.

Addressing reporters, Mr. Suresh said that a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) would be constituted to oversee the implementation and distribution of the cards. He said a "Transaction Advisory Committee has been appointed to finalise the smart card framework and guide transport corporations on technical requirements, tendering procedures and the distribution mechanism."

"The committee is expected to submit its report by the end of this month. Based on its recommendations, the government will initiate the tender process for the large-scale issuance of smart cards," Mr. Suresh said.

Mr. Suresh further said that the smart card project would be implemented under a PPP model. Women beneficiaries would receive the cards free of cost. The State government would bear the processing costs for cards issued to women, while the selected private partner would provide technical support and manage related operational services, he said.

According to preliminary estimates, the transport corporations may require between 2.5 crore and 3 crore smart cards when both women and male passengers are taken into account.

"The proposed smart card system is expected to streamline ticketing and passenger verification across Karnataka's State-run transport services. This will improve service delivery and enable better management of passenger data," Mr. Suresh said.

Currently, women passengers avail free travel under the Shakti scheme by presenting a valid government-issued identity card to the conductor and obtaining a zero-fare ticket. However, officials said that there have been cases of misuse.

The Shakti scheme, launched on June 11, 2023, as the first of the Congress government's five guarantee schemes, provides free travel for eligible passengers on non-premium services operated by State transport corporations. The scheme has since grown into one of Karnataka's most popular welfare initiatives and was recognised by the Golden Book of World Records for recording the highest number of women beneficiaries availing free travel under a public transport programme.

During the review meeting, the department discussed plans to induct more electric buses into the fleets of the State's four transport corporations. Mr. Suresh said that over 4,000 electric buses would be procured in phases as part of the government's efforts to promote environmentally sustainable public transport.

Indira Lankesh passes away at 83

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indira Lankesh

Indira Lankesh, 83, died due to age related ailments at her residence in Bengaluru on Monday morning. She passed away in her sleep, sources said.

She is survived by her daughter Kavita Lankesh and son Indrajith Lankesh and their families. Her eldest daughter, Gauri Lankesh, was killed by members of an alleged Hindutva cult in September 2017.

Born on June 2, 1943, in Shivamogga, Indira got married to Kannada writer and journalist P. Lankesh in 1960. They later shifted to Bengaluru. While Lankesh resigned as a professor and took to making films and producing plays, Indira Lankesh supported him by selling sarees from her house. She eventually started Mayur Silks and Textiles, a sari shop at Gandhi Bazaar, in 1979.

A year later, Lankesh started the tabloid *Lankesh Patrike*. Indira Lankesh's memoir of her life with Lankesh *Hulimavu Mattu Nanu*, serialised in her daughter's *Gauri Lankesh Patrike*, a pun on Lankesh's autobiography *Hulimavina Mara*, is considered a landmark among memoirs by women in Kannada.

Noted critic M.S. Ashadevi said, "Indira Lankesh, while facing challenges as a wife of a creative maverick and a successful man like Lankesh, was a self-made woman. Her memoir shows us the importance of economic independence for women. Lankesh did not even know that Indira Lankesh had bought a site and built a house till it was almost completed. They may not have been on talking terms for long periods, but their relationship was based on love, care and respect. I think by the sheer strength of her character, she brought in a change in Lankesh's perspective on women. We can see some of the traces of this in the women characters in his stories, like *Devi* and *Kallu Karaguva Samaya*, who are very important women characters of Kannada literature."

Recounting her association with her friend Gauri Lankesh and her mother Indira Lankesh, Ms. Ashadevi said the death of Gauri Lankesh was a big blow to Indira Lankesh. "Though she was proud of what Gauri stood for, losing her first child was a tragedy she never recovered from. But till the very last day, she never lost her interest in life," she said.

Mangaluru airport gets CAT-I lighting system

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

In a first for the country and only the second in Asia, the Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) has commissioned a runway approach lighting system featuring Airfield Lighting Intelligent Management Systems (ALIMS) mounted on specially engineered towers. The system is designed to provide pilots with enhanced visual guidance during the critical final stages of landing, particularly in conditions of reduced visibility, at a tabletop airport. The ALIMS extends 900 metres outward from the runway threshold. Most of these towers rise higher than the 72-metre-tall Qutub Minar in Delhi.

"This project stands out as afirst-of-its-kind airfield lighting installations in India. The facility is only the second of its kind in Asia, placing MIA among a select group of airports worldwide with such advanced infrastructure," a spokesperson said. The Precision Approach Lighting (PAL) Category I system for Runway 24 was commissioned after approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. "With this, the airport further strengthens its commitment to safe, reliable, and efficient aircraft operations while meeting regulatory compliance," the spokesperson said.

Farmers' federation opposes Tata Power's bid for parallel distribution licence in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following an application by Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) seeking a parallel distribution licence in 15 districts of the State from Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), the Federation of Karnataka Farmers' Organisation formally registered their objections with KERC on Monday.

In their memorandum, they have raised objections against allowing private players to operate in the electricity distribution sector in the State. Kurubur Shantha Kumar, president of the federation, said, "We have asked KERC officials to reject the application

Karnataka Electricity Consumers Association had submitted their objections to KERC recently

filed by the Tata Power Company. They are based in Mumbai and don't have their own distribution system in the State. In such a situation, how can they apply for a licence? In their petition, they have not clarified how the company will provide quality service and efficient management."

"There is no public interest in allowing private players to operate. As per Section 14 of the Electricity Act 2003, any individual or company must have their own electricity distribution network. It is one of the prerequisites for the company to apply for a licence. The Tata Power Company, without having any such distribution network, is liable to be rejected," he said.

30-day campaign

A few days ago, the Karnataka Electricity Consumers Association had also submitted their objections to the KERC, seeking rejection of TPCL's application. Similarly, the Karnataka Power Employees' Union has launched a 30-day campaign against the entry of a private player in the distribution sector.

Two killed, six injured in fire at Mysuru restaurant

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Two persons were killed and six others sustained injuries after a fire broke out at a restaurant in Dattagalli in Mysuru on Monday.

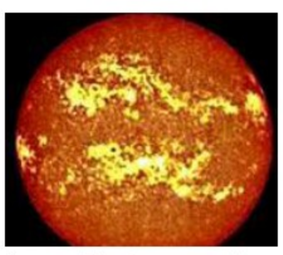
A statement said that a preliminary inquiry reveals that a short circuit occurred in the electric bulbs /LED installed for decoration at the restaurant.The deceased have been identified as Sahin, 26, an employee from Manipur, and Prakash from Nepal. The injured include Sona, 25, from Mandya, Ramesh, 25, from Bengaluru, both customers, besides Mahadev Prasad and Avinash, 22, both managers at the restaurant, and Prajwal, 26, and Yoga, 24, both employees at the restaurant.

Aditya-L1 data provides important evidence to unlock the mystery of energy budget in sun's atmosphere

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), using data obtained from the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) payload onboard Aditya-L1, found unambiguous observational evidence that interactions between the magnetic field lines are primarily responsible for maintaining the energy budget in the sun's atmosphere. It found that the higher temperature in the corona as compared to the solar surface is also due to similar interactions.

According to R. Ramesh, senior professor at IIA and principal investigator for VELC, the shine of the sun that we see every day is due to the continuous generation of energy in the interior of the sun, which is transported outwards.



Images of the Sun captured by Aditya-L1 during the May solar storm

"So, it's quite natural to expect that the sun's temperature should decrease from the surface to the outer layers in its atmosphere. But in reality, it does not happen. The surface of the sun, called the solar photosphere, which is seen every day with the naked eye, is at a temperature of approximately 5500 degrees. Compared to this, the temperature of the outer atmosphere of the sun, called the solar corona, is approximately two million degrees," Dr. Ramesh said.

He added that the temperature of the corona can increase upto forty million degrees during energetic eruptions.

The solar corona can be seen with the naked eye only during a total solar eclipse.

"One of the long-standing mysteries in solar astrophysics is how the energy budget is maintained in the sun's atmosphere despite the occurrence of eruptions like the coronal mass ejections (CME) during which large amounts of energy are released by the sun," he said.

According to the scientists there can be several CMEs even on a single day.

V. Muthupriyal, project scientist for VELC, said that since energetic eruptions in the sun's atmosphere can happen at any time, continuous and uninterrupted observations with VELC is a boon for not only solar physicists in our country, but the entire world.

From Page One

'Need explanation on legal status of RSS'

In Karnataka, according to the report quoted by the Minister, the RSS conducted 2,194 *samajotsavas*, drawing 19.61 lakh participants, organised 562 route marches, usually covering 2.5 to 3 km with 2.21 lakh uniformed participants. "These figures show a vast, disciplined and deeply embedded network operating across Karnataka through daily cadre building, weekly and monthly outreach, mass public events and uniformed route marches," he added.

Stating that in a constitutional democracy, no organisation can remain above scrutiny, he said that it is only fair and necessary that the RSS places information in the public domain.

"An organisation that regularly evokes nationalism, discipline and duty must also demonstrate these values through transparency, compliance and respect for the Constitution," he said.

Mr. Kharge said: "The RSS cannot ask ordinary Indians to follow rules while exempting itself from the same standards. If workers, small associations, religious institutions, NGOs, trusts, companies and citizens are expected to register, disclose, audit and pay taxes, then the RSS too must set an example by abiding by the rules of the land."

No need to respond, says Bhagwat

"All these gimmicks have being tried. After 10 to 15 years of starting the sangh, we had faced these things. We are used to this and if they don't happen, we feel something is amiss," he remarked.

"Hindu dharma is not registered and so are many other things. Those who want to have funds from the government, they require registration," he said, and added: "The government knows the sangh is there. Over 100 years, nobody told us that we must register. We even submitted our written constitution to the government in the 1950s."

"Why should I respond to the Karnataka government? In some way, they want to hamper the sangh's work and create doubts in the minds of people," Mr. Bhagwat said.

INBRIEF

Kumaraswamy goes on Sabarimala pilgrimage

Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy, along with several Janata Dal (Secular) leaders, on Monday undertook a pilgrimage to Sabarimala, the abode of Lord Ayyappa, in Kerala.

Party sources said that Mr. Kumaraswamy had been wishing to visit Sabaramala for some time, and that the visit was a sudden plan. He wore the sacred mala at Sree Subramanya Swamy temple in Kochi and resumed his journey to Sabarimala. "Mr. Kumaraswamy has been to Sabarimala multiple times before. This is his first visit after he became a Union Minister," sources said.

Circular extending RTE quota admission to SC/ST students for classes 9 and 10 stayed

The circular had directed all private schools across the State to allow SC/ST students who completed class 8 during 2025-26 to continue studying in classes 9 and 10 in the same school

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the operation of a contentious circular from the State government that extended the Right to Education (RTE) quota benefits to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students pursuing classes 9 and 10.

Justice Ashok S. Kinagi passed the interim order on a petition filed by the Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) and other private school associations.

The circular, issued by the Commissioner for Public Instruction on May 21, 2026, had directed all private schools across the State to allow SC/ST students who completed class 8 during the academic year 2025-26 to continue studying in classes 9 and 10 in the same school under Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. It further mandated that any fees collected from such students be reimbursed and that the issuance of transfer certificates would not hinder readmission in the same school under RTE quota.

The petitioner associations, representing over 5,000 private unaided English-medium schools, have contended that the RTE Act, rooted in Article 21A of the Constitution, expressly limits the guarantee of free and compulsory education to children aged 6 to 14, covering only elementary education from classes 1 to 8, not beyond.

The State government, by way of a mere administrative circular and without any provision in the law, cannot extend the benefit of the RTE Act to the students beyond class 8, the petitioners claimed.

They further alleged that the circular was issued at the instance of the Chief Minister's Office and the Social Welfare Department without independent application of mind by the statutory authority. It has also been argued in the petition that extending the benefit of the RTE Act only to SC/ST students excluding from the broader "disadvantaged group" category amounts to selective and arbitrary implementation of the law under Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

The petitioner had pleaded the Court to stay the operation of the circular, citing pressure from the government authorities to comply with the directives even though classes for the academic year 2026-27 have already commenced with the admission of eligible students for classes 9 and 10.

The circular further mandated that any fees collected from such students be reimbursed

'Banks can't freeze account when probe agencies seek freezing of specified amount'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that banks are expected to act with due care. GETTY IMAGES

The High Court of Karnataka has held that banks cannot freeze an account completely, when investigating agencies have directed only a partial freeze limited to a specified amount.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while allowing a petition filed by one Madhu of Bengaluru, whose account was frozen completely by IndusInd Bank despite the freeze directions from investigating agencies covering only an aggregate sum of ₹25,000.

The petitioner's account had attracted two separate freeze communications – one from the Cyber Crime Police Station, Gujarat, for ₹15,000, and another from the Barrackpore Police Station, West Bengal, for ₹10,000. However, IndusInd Bank froze the entire account, preventing the petitioner from accessing funds beyond the stipulated amount.

"The power to freeze exercised by the bank is not an independent power. The bank acts merely as a custodian of the account and is required to implement directions lawfully issued by competent investigating authorities. Its authority is circumscribed by the terms of the directions received," the court observed.

The bank had contended that its action of complete freeze was on the apprehension that further freezing directions from other agencies.

The court firmly rejected this reasoning, holding that "a possibility or apprehension of a future event cannot be equated with a lawful order" and that "administrative convenience or anticipatory action cannot substitute a valid legal mandate."

However, the Court said that the "banks are expected to act with due care and circumspection so that the interests of investigation are adequately protected while at the same time ensuring that account holders are not subjected to restrictions beyond those authorised by law".

The court directed IndusInd Bank to restrict the freeze on a petitioner's account to ₹25,000 and allow operation of the remaining balance with a liberty to freeze further amount of such a requests are received from the investigating agencies.

Chinnaiah, one of the accused in the Dharmasthala case. FILE PHOTO

Chinnaiah accuses four fellow accused of harassment, BJP seeks CBI probe

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU/BENGALURU

DHARMASTHALA CASE

C.N. Chinna, (Chinnaiah), who has been accused of filing a false complaint of mass burial of bodies in Dharmasthala village, has filed a complaint before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) accusing four fellow accused in the Dharmasthala case of harassing him and his family members. In addition to Chinnaiah, activists Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, Girish Mattannavar, Jayant, and Sujatha Bhat are accused in the Dharmasthala case.

Meanwhile, the Opposition BJP has demanded a CBI probe into the episode to unearth the truth.

In the complaint filed at the SIT station in Belthangady on Monday, Chinnaiah said he recently filed a writ petition seeking direction to the SIT for submission of the final report before the Belthangady court in connection with his complaint.

A 3,900-page preliminary report was submitted to the Belthangady court in which the SIT accused Chinnaiah, Thimarody, Mattannavar, Jayant, and Bhat of filing a false complaint before the court, and also accused Chinnaiah of giving a false statement on oath before the magistrate. On January 3, 2026, the court had directed the SIT to submit its final report.

Following the writ petition, Chinnaiah's relative Purushottam received a call on June 12 from a media house, which asked him about who gave funds for the writ petition and who was behind the writ petition. The media house also asked for Chinnaiah's contact number stating that it wanted to speak to him. That night, Ravi, another relative of Chinnaiah, received a phone call from Mattannavar, who asked Ravi the same questions that the media house had posed. Mattannavar also sought Chinnaiah's contact number, the latter's complaint stated.

The tone and tenor of their questions were those of harassment to withdraw the writ petition, Chinnaiah alleged, further claiming that they were trying to hinder the investigation and force him to stop his legal fight. Their queries were causing fear in the minds of his family members, he said. Purushottam and Ravi were prime witnesses in the case, and Mattannavar and the other accused were trying to harass them and their family members, Chinnaiah alleged.

Chinnaiah has asked the SIT to take action against Mattannavar and the other accused.

Meanwhile, alleging that there was a conspiracy to defame the pilgrimage centre of Dharmasthala, C. T. Ravi, BJP MLC, has written to the Chief Minister seeking that the episode be handed over to CBI for an inquiry to unearth the conspiracy. In the letter, he said there were allegations that ₹200 crore had been pumped in to rake up a controversy. He maintained that only a CBI probe could bring out the truth as some of those allegedly involved in the episode were from other States too.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Legislative Council N. Ravi Kumar urged the State government to hand over the issue to the CBI for a "comprehensive inquiry" as the episode had inter-State ramifications and a possible foreign hand.

Ramanagara MLA hospitalised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with Iqbal Hussain, MLA, at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Monday.

Iqbal Hussain, Ramanagara MLA, has been admitted to a private hospital in Bengaluru after he complained of chest pain late on Sunday.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who met Mr. Hussain at the hospital on Monday morning, said that the legislator was doing fine and that he would be moved to a different hospital for comprehensive checks later this week. The Chief Minister was accompanied by former State Legislative Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar.

Vydehi Superspeciality Hospital Medical Administrator Humera S. told *The Hindu* that the MLA had come for a check-up and his condition is stable.

Mr. Hussain is seen among the strongest supporters of Mr. Shivakumar; both hail from Bengaluru South district and represent neighbouring constituencies.

Mr. Hussain defeated Nikhil Kumaraswamy, son of Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, in the 2023 Assembly elections.

BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/CLU-01/21/2026-27/417 Date: 15-06-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Mahesh. K.M S/o Mahalingaiah, Sri Shivakumar. M S/o Marulusidappa, Sri R. Shivamadaiah S/o Late Revanna has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Commercial"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No: **137** extent of 01 Acre - 12¾ Guntas and Sy.No: **138** extent of 01 Acre - 23¾ Guntas Totally measuring 02 Acre - 36½ Guntas of **Kumbalagodu Gollahalli Village,** Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in Approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) By developing the said lands for commercial purposes, the General Public will benefit through increased economic activity and job opportunities.
2) During the development works of the commercial project, there will be opportunity for employment of local labourers and skilled workers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed due to the proposed commercial development in the above said lands.
4) By planned commercial development, the public will be benefited with civic amenities such as good roads, parking facilities, infrastructure improvements etc. The Government will also get revenue in the form of taxes.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his / her objection to **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru** in writing to the above address of this Authority within 15 days from the date of this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary, B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1167/Adverto/2026-27

ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಛೇರಿ, ರಾ.ಹೆ–75 ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕೆಫೆ ಕಾಫಿಡೇ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ನರಸಾಪುರ–563133, ಕೋಲಾರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eemidklr@rediffmail.com, eemigwddkolar@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08152–200049

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾ.ಪಾ.ಇಂ/ಸ.ನೀ.ವಿ/ಕೋ/ತಾಂ.ಶಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ–1/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/543/2026–27/ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.06.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 04/2026–27/
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.06.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೋಲಾರ ರವರಿಂದ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2&3 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಅನ್ವಯ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 04 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.80.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ನಿಗದಿತ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.06.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (Download).** ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ **(Upload) ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.06.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.** ಮೇಲಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಭವಿಷ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದರ್ಭೋಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗೆ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ರಜಾದಿನ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೋಲಾರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಕೋಲಾರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:114/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/EW/COE_NEET/KCET/CR-01/2026-27 Date: 16.06.2026

Announcement of Tender

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities For the **academic year 2026-27, in the Pre-University Colleges functioning under the Directorate of Minorities,** in order to provide **NEET/KCET coaching and other training programs.** Interested & eligible bidders/Institutes can apply through e-Procurement Portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**16.06.2026**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 900.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.13,50,000/-**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**23.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**06.07.2026 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**08.07.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**15.07.2026 at 11:30 a.m.** (Tentative)
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902 080-22535912.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1173/MAA/2026-27

Siddaramaiah defends govt. action on guarantee schemes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid the Opposition's attack on the State government's decision to ask guarantee schemes' beneficiaries to reapply, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has supported its decision to review the beneficiaries' list. On Monday, he accused the Opposition of running a misinformation campaign for political benefit.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, during whose tenure the five guarantees were implemented, said mistakes are being rectified since the beginning. He added, "The BJP is basically anti-poor. It has been opposing the guarantee schemes from the beginning, but has copied the same and implemented these in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal."

He said, "The benefits should reach only the eligible. When ineligible persons corner the benefits, it is the responsibility of the government to stop it."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, "We have information about money going into someone's account. There are reports of beneficiaries providing someone else's phone number in the beginning. This scheme is only for those residing in Karnataka. Why should free power supply be given to people from outside the State? We have decided to provide identity cards to beneficiaries. We do not intend to stop the scheme."

Kerala rolls out free travel for women on KSRTC buses

The scheme will cover around 3,125 ordinary buses operated by the KSRTC in seven categories; CM says KSRTC will not face any financial burden due to the implementation of the scheme

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CM V.D .Satheesan, right, with Transport Minister C.P. John and other dignitaries during the launch of 'Priyadarshini' on Monday. PTI

Billed as a significant step towards women's empowerment, the Kerala government on Monday launched its flagship 'Priyadarshini' free travel scheme for all women and transgender persons on ordinary buses operated by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).

Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan inaugurated the scheme at the Thampanoor Central Bus Station around 9.30 a.m.

The scheme will cover around 3,125 ordinary buses operated by the KSRTC, although not all of them are in service due to operational constraints.

Under the scheme, women and transgender persons can travel free of charge on seven categories of KSRTC ordinary services – ordinary, city ordinary, limited-stop ordinary, fair-stage ordinary, town-to-town, point-to-point, and Gramavandi services.

Terming the launch "a proud moment for Kerala," Mr. Satheesan said the free travel initiative was "not an act of generosity" towards women, but a well-crafted scheme that will have far-reaching socio-economic benefits.

The KSRTC will not face any financial burden due to the implementation of the scheme, he said.

During the initial phase, women and transgender passengers will be allowed to travel free of charge on ordinary bus services for the first 100 days. Following a review of the scheme's performance, the government plans to extend the benefit to other categories of services, including fast and superfast buses.

A section of commuters alleged that the number of buses carrying the City Fast tag swelled overnight in Thiruvananthapuram city on Monday, depriving many passengers of the benefits of the scheme. They alleged that City Fast stickers were affixed to buses parked in and around the city depot to deny passengers the benefits of the scheme.

The authorities clarified that the scheme is not available on City Fast services in the first phase.

'Bidadi township project unnecessary'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R. Ashok demanded that the State government scrap the proposed Bidadi township project, arguing that it was unnecessary and would lead to loss of productive farmland.

While championed by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, BJP's ally, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, has been opposing the project, though it was during his tenure in 2007 that the project was mooted.

Mr. Ashok said, while the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi objected to projects in the Greater Nicobar, arguing that it will lead to environmental destruction, he remained silent on Bidadi, where thousands of acres of fertile land was being acquired and lakhs of trees cut.

Claiming that Bengaluru's ₹39,437-crore worth Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) tenders would burden the city for decades, Mr. Ashok urged citizens, resident welfare associations, students, and senior citizens to start a letter-writing campaign to the Governor and the President against the "garbage tender scam". "The city's garbage is becoming a source of income for the Congress high command, while Bengaluru's residents are suffering," he said.

India's tallest wind turbine set up in Vijayanagara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Suzlon Energy, a Pune-based wind turbine manufacturer, on Monday said it installed the 160-metre S175 (5 MW), claimed to be India's tallest wind turbine powerhouse, in Vijayanagara district, Karnataka.

New wind frontiers

According to a company communique, as India's most powerful turbine yet, the S175 has been engineered on over 30 years of operational insights from Suzlon's existing 15.5 GW turbine fleet. As the country's first FDRE-ready (Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy) turbine, it unlocks new wind frontiers and will enable wind energy to play a larger role in India's energy transition.

Pralhad Joshi, Union Cabinet Minister for New and Renewable Energy, said, "The launch of the S175 5 MW turbine will go a long way in ensuring that we meet our wind energy ambitions, both domestically and globally.

This next-generation turbine reflects India's growing strength in advanced clean energy innovation."

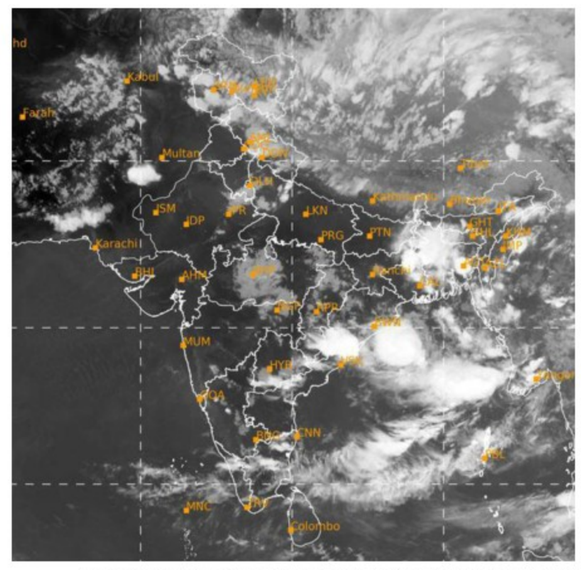
"Its biggest breakthrough lies not just in significantly increasing energy generation but in its ability to make previously unviable wind sites viable, expanding the wind addressable markets," said Girish Tanti, executive vice-chairman, Suzlon Group.

Energy generation

The integration of proven reliability and next-generation turbine technology would help it deliver higher energy generation and improved project economics for low to medium India wind regimes, said the company.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Odisha, Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Telangana and Vidarbha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2	33.6	26.0	Kurnool	—	36.7	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	40.4	29.0	Lucknow	—	39.7	28.9
Aizawl	46.8	30.3	20.2	Madurai	—	39.5	26.6
Bengaluru	15	30.5	20.0	Mangaluru	6	32.0	24.0
Bhopal	—	34.5	20.8	Mumbai	—	35.2	29.5
Bhubaneswar	—	37.0	25.6	Mysuru	—	33.8	21.2
Chandigarh	—	37.0	24.4	New Delhi	0.2	37.5	28.2
Chennai	0.2	40.0	28.3	Patna	—	40.0	29.5
Coimbatore	4	34.4	23.4	Port Blair	—	31.0	27.1
Dehradun	—	35.8	22.4	Prayagraj	—	42.4	29.0
Gangtok	11	23.2	17.9	Puducherry	—	38.0	25.8
Goa	1	34.4	27.7	Pune	—	35.9	25.0
Guwahati	0.6	34.6	26.4	Raipur	—	39.7	28.5
Hubballi	—	34.0	23.0	Ranchi	37	34.2	21.0
Hyderabad	—	36.5	26.4	Shillong	—	24.0	18.0
Imphal	—	31.3	25.3	Shimla	—	28.4	17.8
Jaipur	0.7	37.0	23.6	Srinagar	2	28.5	13.9
Kochi	—	30.8	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	3	32.6	25.2
Kohima	—	25.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	38.7	27.6
Kolkata	—	36.6	28.8	Vijayawada	—	39.0	27.6
Kozhikode	0.3	35.0	26.2	Visakhapatnam	0.1	35.5	28.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.64	.20	.34	69	84	
Bengaluru	.23	.27	.36	36	52	
Chennai	5	.14	.53	41	53	
Delhi	.21	.54	.46	102	257	
Hyderabad	.16	.15	.40	57	78	
Kolkata	.15	.23	.27	78	98	
Lucknow	.12	.11	.44	137	92	
Mumbai	3	6	.55	53	70	
Pune	—	.38	101	54	72	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.60	.13	62	93	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Panchgaon, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 231 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ambernath, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · the hindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
Door No. 294/1D, 100 feet Road (Tadigadapa to Enikepadu Road), Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh, India, Tel: +91-866-2429999
Fax: +91-866-2429977, Email: contracts-ho@apmdc.in

SHORT TERM TENDER

Ref: APMDC/HO/P&C/Science Lab Equipment - APMDC - DAV Model School at Suliyari/2025-26/III, Date: 16.06.2026.

APMDC invites E-tender from reputed Agencies for "Supply of Laboratory Setup Accessories to APMDC - DAV Model School at Suliyari Coal Project, Madhya Pradesh". For more information on the eligibility criteria, tender fees, timelines and other details, please visit APMDC website (**www.apmdc.ap.gov.in**). The Tender document is available for downloading from APMDC website from **16.06.2026** and the last date for submission of bid is **23.06.2026.**

Place : Vijayawada
Date : 16-06-2026
Sd/- Managing Director
The A.P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited
DIPR No.5172PP/CL, Dt:15.06.2026

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ, ಬಹುಮಹಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಗ್ರಾಅಪಂರಾ 69 ಜೆಪಸ 2024[ಭಾ–2] ದಿನಾಂಕ: **15.06.2026**

ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕುಲಪತಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ

ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, 2016 ರ ಪ್ರಕರಣ 15 ರ ಉಪಬಂಧಗಳನುಸಾರ **ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕುಲಪತಿಯ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ** ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹತೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾಗಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ, ಅರ್ಹತೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲ **www.rdpr.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಥವಾ ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲ **www.ksrdpru.ac.in** ಗಳಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವ–ವಿವರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ (Bio-data) ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ತ್ರಿಪ್ರತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗೆ ಅಂದರೆ 15 ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರತ ದಿನಗಳು ಮುದ್ದಾಂ(Manual) ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗುವಂತೆ **"ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, [ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್] ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 308, 3ನೇ ಗೇಟ್, 3ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಬಹುಮಹಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 001"** ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/1125/2026–27
ಸಹಿ/– ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ(ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್), ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. E-299008/308899/62138 Date: 12.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites Short term tender for Manufacture & Supply of following materials.

Sl. No	Tender No	Particulars of Materials proposed to be Procured	Quantity
1	MESCOM/2025-26/ IND0157/CALL-2	LT Single Phase Reference Standard Meters	7 Nos
		LT Three Phase Reference Standard Meters	5 Nos
		HT Reference Standard Meters	3 Nos
2	MESCOM/2026-27/ IND0158/CALL-2	7/10SWG Guy Wire	150 MT
3	MESCOM/2026-27/ IND0159/CALL-2	Silver Memento as per specification	66 No's.

The interested bidders may log on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.06.2026.**

Sd/-,
Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Procurement)
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/377/26-27dt: 15.06.2026

For Power Related Complaints contact:
MESCOM Helpline: 1912
9483041912 mescom_official mescom_official

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mekedatu Project Division, Harobele,
Kanakapura Taluk, Bangalore South District,
E-mail : eemekedatu@gmail.com

Tender Notification No. : 01/2026-27 Date : 12-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The **CNNL** hereby invites Tender coming under **Kanakapura Constituency** for the **Road and Other Development Works** under 4701 and supply of Man Power under 2701 head of account through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal.

The Last Date for Tender Submission, Opening of Technical Bid, Financial Bid Dates, EMD details and more information can be downloaded from the Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal and for further information please visit office at working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Mekedatu Project Division, CNNL,
Bangalore South District, Harobele.
DIPR/Ramanagar/108/Manipal/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/Tr(Op)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AE-2/2026-27/2995-97 Dated : 12.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids against **Tender No: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3729** for Replacement of 7 no's of age old M/s ABB make 33kV Circuit Breakers installed at 110/33/11kV Guruvayanakere sub-station, 110kV Puttur & 220kV SRS Kavoor in Dakshina Kannada District of Operations Division, Kavoor.

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "tenders" on or after **16.06.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from Office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor,
Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रूप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 – 2564568 / 5669 / 4545)

दिनांक/Dated : 15-06-2026

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

1. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में ठोस नोदक दहन अनुसंधान ग्रुप (एसपीसीजी) के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल तथा विद्युत कार्य) / Construction of building for Solid Propellant Combustion Research Group (SPCG) at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & Electrical works) / **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/09/2026-27 Dt. 12.06.2026 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C: ₹1086.85 लाख/Lakhs)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 13.06.2026 को 10.00 बजे/hrs. से/to दिनांक 03.07.2026, 23.00 बजे/hrs.

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए www.tenderwizard.com/isro या www.isro.gov.in देखें। Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.com/isro or www.isro.gov.in for details.

Sd/- प्रधान, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी
Head, CMG, VSSC

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur, Belagavi – 591302

The tender Notification No: KNNL/KPD/KNP/PB/TND/2026-27/483-485 Date:12.06.2026

SHORT TERM: PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kpp-portal only)

1.Short Term Percentage Tender is invited from eligible KPWD registered Contractor through KPP-Portal according to standard tender document rules in prescribed form on behalf of Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Bengaluru.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Exclusive of GST) (In Lakhs)	Category / Class of Contractors
1	Providing Infrastructure facility to KK Koppa, Kangarali KH, Savaganv villages coming under the jurisdiction of Bagewadi TFS in Belagavi Taluka Belagavi District. (W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT4541)	422.52	Class-II & above
2	Construction/Improvements of connecting roads at Hirabagewadi Village coming under the jurisdiction of Belagavi Rural Constituency under Bagewadi TFS in Belagavi Taluka Belagavi District. (W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/ WORK_INDENT 4542)	338.80	Class-II & above
3	Providing Infrastructure facility to Benakanhalli and Hindalaga Gram Panchayat Limits coming under Hangaraga TFS in Belagavi. (for the year 2025-26) (W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/ WORK_INDENT4339/Call-2)	422.49	Class-II & above

2.Details and Tender documents may be downloaded through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/index.seam and Filled bids for the above works may be submitted through the KPP portal until 24.06.2026, 4:00 PM. 3.The Pre-bid Meeting will be held in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division Khanapur on 19.06.2026 at 11.00AM. Technical bid will be opened on 25.06.2026 at 4.30 PM. 4.For further details such as, EMD amount, time limit, cost of tender form, eligibility for work, terms and conditions of tender visit our website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the EE, KPD, Khanapur during office hours on any working day.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-428/KSMCA/2026-27
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur, Belagavi

(Department of Agriculture Marketing)
Agricultural Produce Market Committee,
KUSHTAGI–583277
E-mail :apmckushtagi@gmail.com Office Ph : 08536-200039

No.AMD/APMC/KUS/DEV/ 131-132 /2026-27 Date: 14/06/2026

-: E-Tender Notification :-

APMC, Kushtagi hereby invites Tender for the some development works Under Annual Acton Plan 2025-26. from eligible e-portal registered PWD contractors in Two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 through e-procurement portal. The contractors have to submit all tender related documents, item wise rates etc by uploading through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website in standard documents (with latest amendments)

INDENT NUMBER:-

1) APMC/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT934, Tender Amount Rs.1,64,36,425.32
2) APMC/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT961, Tender Amount Rs.25,39,777.22
3) APMC/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT962, Tender Amount Rs.13,82,489.38
4) APMC/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT969, Tender Amount Rs.1,69,60,457.58

pre-bid meeting (Only for KW-4 works Only) date:23-06-2026 11.00 Am, Last date for the submission of filled E-Tender applications. Date: 30-06-2026 up to 4.00 PM, Date of opening of Technical bid Date: 02-07-2026 at 4.30 PM, Date of opening of Financial bid (if Possible) Date: 09-07-2026 at 4.00 PM, Place of opening of pre-bid meeting / E-Tender bid. Date: Office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Kushtagi. Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Kushtagi during working days and hours or through website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Secretary
APMC Kushtagi
DIPR/Koppal/161/KSMCA/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)AEE-1/F-180(10)/26-27/1254-55 Date: 15.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No:KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/EPR-24, Call-3, Dated: 06.03.2026 for **increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 220kV Hoody- Begur (BIAL) SC Line between Tower no.13 and Tower no.16 in Whitecity Layout by providing a proposed 220kV DB/DE+3, NBT NRS-Laggere design Tower in TLM Sub-Division Hoody,Tr(Op), Circle-South, Bengaluru.**

The bids will be received through KPP mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 16.06.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Tr(Operations)
Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor,
A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

Politics over people

Pragmatism should guide India's demographic governance

In constituting a panel to study demographic changes in India, the Centre was guided by a paranoid mindset that saw devious conspiracies everywhere. The move gave shape and substance to a thought expressed by Home Minister Amit Shah: "unnatural demographic change" is a "very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation". In his Independence Day address in 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the proposal, characterising illegal infiltration as a "premeditated conspiracy" to alter India's demography. The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice P.P. Naolekar, is to assess demographic changes, examine patterns of abnormal population shifts among religious and social communities, and recommend a time-bound solution. Mr. Shah linked demographic changes not only to sovereignty but also to national security, law and order, "profound changes in social structure and the preservation of tribal society". According to the government, demographic shifts have affected public service delivery, local governance, resource distribution and social cohesion, and Justice Naolekar has said that the panel will also formulate a system for the custody and deportation of infiltrators.

It is indeed true that the management of population dynamics is a key instrument of governance. On June 14, Switzerland held a referendum and rejected a proposal to cap the country's population at 10 million. Across the world, immigration has become contentious, with unregulated cross-border movement seen as a challenge to sovereignty. Population management, however, is not entirely about illegal infiltration, and securitising demographic trends at the cost of all adjacent factors could do more harm than good. As the recent experience with the SIR of electoral rolls shows, facts about people would be seen as valid only to the extent that these are established through documentation. If this exercise creates a large stateless population with no country willing to accept them, it could result in a demographic deadlock rather than a solution. The fear of communal profiling of Muslims is real, and the Centre should also seriously consider whether the human costs are worth it. India faces major demographic challenges. Rising life expectancy and falling birth rates are changing the composition of India's population. There are concerns of India losing its demographic dividend, as the quality of education and health, and the evolving dynamics of work, remain very challenging. Migration continues to shape India's trajectory. Partition created three sovereign countries out of a geographical and cultural continuum, and its legacy included voluntary and involuntary movement of people. Sensitivity and a long-term view should guide India's demographic governance.

Peace with peace

Preventive detentions are misused by the state in the name of order

In *Chander Pal Singh*, a matter involving preventive proceedings, the Allahabad High Court has simultaneously addressed a part of the criminal justice system that often receives less attention than ordinary criminal proceedings and the more overbearing reality of mechanisms designed to avert disturbances having gradually become instruments to deprive people of liberty. The state has the power to intervene before a crime occurs if it is reasonably apprehensive that a person is a threat to public order. However, it has acquired a habit of exercising that power routinely, resulting in detentions without any substantive criminal charge. The High Court's order was based, the Bench said, on a "highly irresponsible" deprivation of personal liberties in Uttar Pradesh, where police officers and executive magistrates were using preventive powers to incarcerate individuals on the basis of arguably minor apprehensions. In *Chander Pal Singh* as well, the petitioner, a physically challenged Dalit advocate, had been arrested over a petty dispute with a neighbour. The Bench said that between May 2025 and April 2026, around 2,500 people were reportedly subjected to preventive detention proceedings in Ghaziabad, despite a 2021 State policy to guide the exercise of such powers.

The guidelines in response are commendable; if implemented appropriately, they could reduce the use of preventive incarceration in neighbourhood and property disputes; require executive magistrates to justify their decisions; encourage constitutional challenges to unlawful preventive detention; and generate appellate scrutiny of the compensation framework. They may also snap at the heels of magistrates who cite unspecified "communal tensions" to jail protesters and who impose prohibitively unaffordable bonds for release. Further, even if the ruling does not directly impinge on the detention of activist Sonam Wangchuk under the NSA, it critiques the idea of using the excuse of maintaining peace to silence dissent and reminds the state that it still has a responsibility to maintain peace with peace. The ruling may also apply to workers and activists recently detained in New Delhi if held under Sections 126 or 170 of the BNSS without valid grounds. That said, implementing the ruling will be difficult. The Bench said that compensation for unlawful detention can be recovered from the salary of the magistrate concerned and/or police officer following a disciplinary hearing. However, the executive has been historically reluctant to penalise its personnel. Second, executive magistrates are part of the State administration and their careers may depend on maintaining 'peace' as the State defines it. Addressing these barriers could reform preventive proceedings in India.

Resistance, renewal and the future of the INDIA bloc

Dipankar Bhattacharya

General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation

It is perhaps the first time that Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has released his speech delivered at a meeting of Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc leaders to the public. While his focus on building a united resistance to the Sangh-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s assault on the constitutional foundations of the Indian republic, as well as on the liberties and livelihoods of millions of Indians, is welcome, a few constructive observations may be in order in the interest of building a truly powerful and sustained resistance.

This writer has attended all INDIA bloc meetings, including the formative gathering in Patna, Bihar, in June 2023 before the alliance adopted the INDIA name. Mr. Gandhi's impassioned speech, delivered at a time when the BJP's 'double-engine'/National Democratic Alliance (NDA) governments span over 20 States and Union Territories, was both reassuring and somewhat concerning. While it would have resonated strongly at a Congress meeting, parts of it seemed somewhat discordant in a gathering of 23 parties representing diverse ideological streams united in defence of India's sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic.

Mr. Gandhi is right in reminding us that the Congress became a movement of resistance after Purna Swaraj (complete independence) became the official goal of the Congress. The resolution, introduced in the 1927 Madras session, and adopted two years later in the 1929 Congress session in Lahore, did propel the Congress into the leading position in India's freedom movement, with communists, socialists, and what is now known as the Phule-Ambedkar-Periyar stream serving as other prominent stakeholders. We must not however forget that the Purna Swaraj idea was first presented in the Ahmedabad session of the Congress in 1921 by two communist delegates, Maulana Hasrat Mohani and Swami Kumarananda. And Bhagat Singh and his comrades made a clear and bold ideological statement with the launch of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association in 1928.

The battle against authoritarianism

The battle today is between the only ideological stream that stayed away from, and often opposed, the freedom movement and the diverse ideological currents that fought for and won India's independence. The INDIA alliance represents a regrouping of these forces against the Hindutva school of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-BJP, which is seeking to reshape state institutions and the architecture of parliamentary democracy to advance its ideological agenda.

If the BJP gets a free hand in its push for 'one nation, one party', the Congress will suffer no less than other political parties; indeed, it has often proved more vulnerable. For all our glorious chapters from the history of the freedom movement, there is no accumulated ideological insulation or immunity for any party in the face of today's all-out fascist offensive and ideological assault. The BJP itself is filled with leaders who were in the Congress not long ago. Even as Mr. Gandhi emphasised the need to resist the BJP, the Congress's Chief Minister in Telangana was proudly invoking Hitler while defending Hyderabad's controversial demolition drive.

If institutions are captured and the electoral system manipulated – from voter rolls to vote counting and the declaration of results – what option remains for the people who inherited a Constitution that envisions India as a sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic? Mr. Gandhi is absolutely right in arguing that the only answer is resistance – not sporadic or symbolic opposition, but sustained, broad-based and determined democratic resistance.

> The INDIA bloc needs a new impetus rooted in democratic resistance, unity, humility and renewed political purpose

Towards a just republic

We can no longer afford policies that have proved disastrous for the country and the vast majority of its people. An economic model of crony capitalism that transfers all of India's resources to a handful of corporations while impoverishing the masses and damaging the environment will have to go. A foreign policy that mortgages the strategic autonomy of India to the United States-Israel axis of aggression even as Indian sailors are killed by U.S. missiles needs immediate change. The assault on Adivasi land and forest rights, and attempts to rob them of their constitutional protections, must stop. A governance model that glorifies bulldozers and encounters while criminalising dissent has no place in a democratic republic. Equally, the ideology of cultural nationalism that defines nationhood through religious supremacy and exclusion must be rejected. Finally, an electoral system that sacrifices credibility and transparency needs urgent and comprehensive reform.

To be sure, such resistance is already underway. Farmers forced the Narendra Modi government to abandon the land acquisition ordinance in 2014 and, seven years later, repeal the three farm laws. The Shaheen Bagh-led movement against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in 2019 sparked nationwide opposition to what many saw as a threat to constitutional values. More recently, workers' protests across north India against rising workloads and diminishing wages have highlighted growing economic distress. Student demonstrations, led by organisations ranging from the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) or left student organisations such as the All India Students' Association (AISA) and the Students' Federation of India (SFI) or the new digital phenomenon called the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), are demanding accountability for the deepening crisis in the education and examination system.

We must also acknowledge the price people have paid for this resistance. More than 700 farmers died during the historic farmers' protest at Delhi's borders. Father Stan Swamy died in custody. Activists such as Surendra Gadling, Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, among others linked to the Elgar Parishad and CAA protests, have been languishing for years. Workers and activists are facing imprisonment for demanding basic rights and fair wages. Activist Sonam Wangchuk appears to be a rare exception, having been released after months of detention under the National Security Act without any clear explanation. Journalists, too, have faced severe pressure, with Prabir Purkayastha among the few to secure relief after prolonged legal action.

Contrast this record of courage and perseverance among the people with the disturbing state of political parties, many of which are splitting or imploding under the pressure of intimidation or the lure of power. It is a reminder of how humble we must be when speaking of building resistance. The challenge before the INDIA bloc is to connect with these ongoing struggles, tap into the reservoir of public disillusionment, anger and aspiration, amplify demands for justice, and strengthen the collective struggle for democracy.

Reenergise the Opposition

The impact of two successive powerful struggles such as the equal citizenship campaign, the historic farmers' movement, the message of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, and a series of encouraging electoral outcomes – from the BJP's narrow escape in Bihar in 2020 to its defeats in West Bengal (2021) and Karnataka (2023) – created the ideal backdrop for the emergence of the INDIA coalition in 2023. Despite the exit of the Janata Dal (United) and the Rashtriya Lok Dal and the absence of electoral coordination in States such as West Bengal, Kerala and Punjab, the INDIA bloc came close to defeating the BJP-led NDA in 2024. The results in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu – and, to some extent, Bihar – demonstrated INDIA's electoral potential, raising the Congress tally to 100 seats and the alliance's total to 234.

Since then, a series of electoral setbacks – beginning with the defeats in Maharashtra and Haryana in 2024 and Delhi in 2025 – has eroded the INDIA bloc's strength and influence. These reverses, aided by multidimensional electoral frauds, have further tightened the BJP's stranglehold over what remains of India's electoral democracy. The INDIA bloc clearly needs a new impetus and a turnaround. Mr. Gandhi has a crucial dual role to play in this context – reenergising the Congress and facilitating the broader INDIA platform by ensuring mutual respect, trust and accommodation of parties with diverse histories and ideological inclinations. If India as a country can grow only on the basis of unity in, or rather through, diversity, the same also applies to INDIA as a political coalition.

Technology drives India-France strategic convergence

Mohan Kumar

Former Indian Ambassador to France and now Dean/Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University

It is a measure of the importance that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron attach to the India-France relationship that they are meeting again in France, on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Evian (June 15-17), barely months after Mr. Macron's visit to India for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi in February. During that visit, the two leaders jointly inaugurated the India-France Year of Innovation 2026.

In normal diplomacy, such announcements often take time to translate into action. It is therefore notable that Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron are already moving swiftly to advance bilateral technology cooperation. They jointly inaugurated the "Bharat Innovates" event in Nice (June 14-16), bringing together leading Indian start-ups and venture capital funds. Mr. Modi will then attend the VivaTech Summit in Paris on June 18, Europe's largest technology and start-up event, underscoring the growing India-France technology partnership.

The new pillars of partnership

The India-French relationship is constantly evolving and is consequently being updated by the two leaders who are committed to the cause.

While the recently elevated Special Global Strategic Partnership has always included traditional areas such as defence, nuclear and space, it is the focus on tech and innovation that is now exciting for the relationship.

This focus will include cyberspace, Artificial Intelligence (AI), health care, sustainable development, creative economy, education and research. These are new facets of the evolving and dynamic relationship and will no doubt take ties to greater heights. Tech and innovation has tremendous mutual advantages for both sides. France has some of the best state-of-the-art technology in aerospace, AI, robotics, biotech, health care, green tech and sustainable development, besides being a European hub for the digital economy.

> Technology and innovation power the next phase of India-France ties

It is not hard to see how India can not only benefit from access to technology in these areas but also bring its own added value in terms of frugal innovation, start-ups, digital public infrastructure and biotech, just to name a few. The possibilities are endless. It must be hoped that the two tech summits – "Bharat Innovates"and the "Vivatech" – will enable the private sector on both sides to come up with substantive collaborative arrangements.

Defence, space and Africa

The two leaders are also expected to take stock of the special strategic partnership. There are a number of dossiers which can benefit from their political and strategic guidance. The first is certainly the idea of the co-designing and co-production of defence platforms which must be expedited. Progress is also desirable in emerging areas such as small modular reactors, joint satellite development and human flight programmes.

The potential for Franco-Indian cooperation in Africa has not been fully exploited and this must get the attention of both sides. This becomes even more important in light of the postponement of the India-Africa Forum Summit (May 2026) due to the Ebola crisis in Africa. The two leaders will doubtless exchange views on the ongoing conflicts: in Ukraine and in Iran, which have adversely and disproportionately affected countries of the Global South.

Mr. Modi's Europe visit (June 13-18, 2026) also includes a state visit to Slovakia, the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since its independence in 1993.

Watching the 'D10 debate'

France, as the current chair of the G-7, will host the G-7 summit in Evian from June 15 to 17, 2026. It is difficult to imagine a G-7 summit without India being invited, and Mr. Modi's participation is particularly important given the geopolitical turbulence of the present moment. United States President Donald Trump is also expected to attend it. While attention will naturally focus on the possibility of a Modi-Trump meeting, any interaction may not be a substantive one, given the G-7 atmospherics.

More important is the evolving role of the G-7 itself in global geopolitics. With the G-20 having lost some of its momentum in recent years, discussions have resurfaced about expanding the G-7 into a D10 – a grouping of 10 major democracies. Whether, and how soon, such a transformation materialises remains uncertain, but it is a development India will need to watch closely.

At the end of the day, two middle powers – India and France – which set great store by strategic autonomy, have a fundamental role to play in contributing to geopolitical stability and ensuring a smooth transition to a multipolar world. In that sense, Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron shoulder a significant responsibility.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Revised dress regulations

The move by the Indian Army to introduce new uniform regulations is commendable. Through these combined measures, the Indian Army cultivates a distinct institutional identity rooted in India's own cultural fabric (June 15). These measures reflect the Army's continued commitment to ensuring that the institutions, traditions and spaces where soldiers live, train and serve increasingly embody India's own heroes, values and national legacy while preserving the professionalism and heritage of the force.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

The constant invocation of the "colonial vestige" argument is becoming tiresome. This is the Army that has stood firm through wars, crises and security challenges, delivering when the nation needed it most. Before lecturing institutions or changing traditions and symbols that have proven their worth, the government would do well to address its own shortcomings — from repeated controversies over NEET and infrastructure failures to concerns about electoral processes. Credibility is strengthened by performance, not rhetoric.

Vivek Gupta,
New Delhi

Portal closure

The admission application portal for the BS (Research) programme, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) closed on June 7 before the declaration of the IISER Aptitude Test (IAT) results – expected by June 20. Since admission through the IAT channel is based on rank, applicants were unable to provide this crucial information while applying. As admission processes generally commence only after the declaration of qualifying examination results, many candidates reasonably assumed that applications could be submitted after the IAT results were announced. Owing to the unusual admission schedule and limited awareness that IAT details could be updated later, several deserving students may have missed the application deadline despite appearing for the examination. All applicants had to pay a non-refundable fee. In view of these circumstances, the IISc must consider reopening the portal to enable eligible candidates to apply. Such a step would ensure equal opportunity for all applicants seeking admission through the IAT route.

Lalit Manohar K.,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

How T.N. severed religion, caste from politics

S. Ramasundaram

Retired IAS officer of the 1979 batch in Tamil Nadu, and writes on macro-economy, population and public health. Views are personal

C. Joseph Vijay, actor and founder of the recently floated Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), assumed office as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu last month. One cannot help but be reminded of how M.G. Ramachandran or more popularly known as MGR, also a highly successful actor, took charge as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1977 and went on to win two more consecutive terms, until his death in 1987. He was the first actor-turned-CM in India.

However, apart from being successful film stars, there is hardly much in common between MGR, a Hindu of the Nair community of Kerala, and Mr. Vijay, a Tamil Christian. MGR's best-known co-star and successor, Jayalalithaa, who ruled the State for 16 years, was a Tamil Brahmin. Moreover, C.N. Annadurai, the first non-Congress CM of the State, his successor M. Karunanidhi, and his son M.K. Stalin were/are non-Brahmin Hindus.

As per Census figures, the electorate of Tamil Nadu comprises 88% Hindus and 6% Christians and Muslims each. It has regularly chosen leaders with varied religious and caste backgrounds without much fuss. How did this happen? And is it a replicable model?

A political history

The credit goes partly, among others, to the Dravidian movement whose genesis harkens to the 1920s/1930s. The Justice Party founded in 1916 by a group of non-Brahmin elite with the goal of ending Brahmin 'domination' in top government jobs succeeded in getting reservations for non-Brahmins as early as 1920. The 'self-respect movement' as well as the 'Dravidar Kazhagam' movement (DK) of E.V. Ramasamy (EVR), or 'Periyar' as he was known, avowed to create a society free of caste oppression and inequality, and became a strong oppositional force to the largely Brahmin priestly class in the State. Periyar's anti-Brahmin rhetoric often manifested in the form of inflammatory speeches against Brahmins besides leading to the desecration of Hindu deities.

The rise of the Congress Party during the freedom struggle led to the decline of the Justice Party by 1937, despite them forming a government four times since 1920. In 1949, the DK experienced a split with the breakaway faction led by C.N. Annadurai forming the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). It came to power in 1967 and distanced itself from the anti-Brahmin and anti-religion ideas of Periyar. And while the DK has very little role in the politics of Tamil Nadu today, even after a century of his most active years, a Tamilian tends to either be a staunch supporter of Periyar or a vocal opponent of EVR – there is no middle ground.

Inclusive policies

The foundation laid by these parties and their inclusive social reforms over three decades led to the broad-basing of education among all communities and reservations in government jobs for non-Brahmin castes and, to a lesser extent, Dalits. The K. Kamaraj-led Congress government stressed free education for all. The 'Kalaignar' Karunanidhi-led government focussed on uplifting the Dalit community through inclusive townships known as *Samathuva Puram* (Equality village). MGR's mid-day meal scheme resulted in an increase in girls enrolment, their retention in schools and resolve to work.

From the 1990s, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) government of Jayalalithaa and the DMK governments of Karunanidhi and later his son, Mr. Stalin, focussed on attracting FDIs in manufacturing, especially in the auto sector. As a result, Tamil Nadu has the highest proportion of urban population (almost 50%) in India, which is the engine driving its rapid economic growth and upward social mobility for all religions and castes.

Another remarkable achievement has been that around 42% of India's female factory workers are from Tamil Nadu while making up just 6% of the national population. Such a successful social reform is among the lasting contributions of the social justice and self-respect movement to Tamil society.

The role of films

An equally significant factor for the lack of caste or religious bias in the average Tamil Nadu voter is the role and influence of Tamil films and its actors. The Tamil film industry is reputed for rewarding only meritorious artists, without any consideration for religion or caste. While MGR, Jayalalithaa and now Mr. Vijay were/are stars, Karunanidhi was a script writer of many hit films, including some of MGR's. Between Karunanidhi (16 years), MGR (10 years) and Jayalalithaa (16 years), the film industry's connection with governance in Tamil Nadu has been as long as 42 years. By organising the 1,000th year of the Thanjavur Big Temple in a grand manner in 2010, Karunanidhi demonstrated that an atheist ruler need not be against the devout practising their faith.

Now, the TVK, Mr. Vijay's party, has managed to field and secure victories for a high number of MLAs who are Dalit and women.

In conclusion, the Tamil Nadu voter has almost always voted on considerations other than the religion or the caste of the candidate due to historical movements over the past century, and due to the positive influence of films produced by the secular Tamil film industry. Tamil Nadu has achieved something that required a great struggle in Europe in the 18th century, namely the separation of the Church and the Crown. Tamil movies and Tamil Nadu politics are an inseparable *jodi* that has largely been of benefit to the State socially and economically. For the same reason, it is not an easily replicable model for other States.

Tamil movies and Tamil Nadu politics are an inseparable *jodi* that has largely been of benefit to the State socially and economically

A highly-contested Rajya Sabha rejection

Rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination has exposed Congress faultlines

STATE OF PLAY

Ravi Reddy

The political aftershocks of the rejection of All India Congress Committee (AICC) Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination from Madhya Pradesh is reverberating across Hyderabad.

On June 9, the Returning Officer for the Rajya Sabha elections decided to invalidate Ms. Natarajan's nomination on the grounds of non-disclosure of a pending criminal case in her Form 26 affidavit.

The procedural dispute over an election affidavit has now spiralled into a narrative battle, exposing organisational deficiencies within the Congress, showcasing the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) agility, and giving the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) fresh ammunition against the ruling Congress in the State. Despite approaching the top court and the Election Commission of India, Ms. Natarajan has not got any relief.

The case in question, stemming from a private complaint in 2022 in Telangana, does not accuse her directly of a criminal act but names her as a respondent for not acting against a party functionary. The Congress has maintained that such a matter, not amounting to an FIR or a criminal charge, did not merit disclosure. However, the BJP has framed the omission as a concealment of material information. This reframing of a technical lapse as a question of transparency proved politically decisive.

More significantly, it highlighted the BJP's ability to harness local networks and institutional knowledge across States. Telangana BJP leaders reportedly moved with speed,

tracking down the complaint, verifying its legal standing, and presenting it before the Returning Officer. The episode underscores how political coordination and preparedness can intersect to yield outsized outcomes in tightly contested procedural routines.

Double whammy

For the Congress, the episode has been doubly damaging. First, it has exposed gaps in due diligence. That a senior leader's nomination could be jeopardised by a case linked to the very State she oversees points to a breakdown in internal vetting mechanisms. Such oversight reflects poorly on organisational discipline. Second, and perhaps more politically damaging, are allegations of internal sabotage. The claim, fuelled by remarks from a Madhya Pradesh Minister, has intensified factional fault lines in Telangana. Though evidence remains elusive, the very plausibility of an 'inside job' has damaged the party's credibility. Ms. Natarajan's tenure as AICC in-charge, marked by a reportedly firm and hands-on approach, had already generated unease among sections of the State leadership. The controversy has amplified those tensions.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has sought to contain the fallout by framing the rejection as a politically motivated act. He alleged that the BJP has shifted from 'vote theft' to 'seat theft'. At the same time, the Congress has drawn a distinction between criminal cases and procedural notices, arguing that the Returning Officer's interpretation stretches legal norms. Yet, these arguments have struggled to gain traction in the face of a more potent opposition line – that non-disclosure equals disqualification.

The BJP, for its part, has maintained that the process was entirely lawful, citing adherence to Supreme Court guidelines on disclosure requirements. Even if the BJP s operational role remains contested, its success in shaping the narrative is unmistakable.

The BRS has been the third beneficiary of this event. While not directly involved in the events leading to the rejection, it has seized the moment to question the Congress party's internal unity. BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao's allegation of backstabbing within the Congress has added to the perception of instability within the ruling party.

Beyond the immediate rhetoric, the episode raises broader questions about the ruling party's organisational robustness in Telangana. Since assuming power, the party has faced the dual challenge of governance and internal consolidation. In this context, the Natarajan episode becomes more than a legal dispute. It becomes a test of the Congress party's ability to manage crises, enforce accountability, and maintain internal cohesion. It has exposed vulnerabilities in the Congress' machinery, demonstrated the BJP's organisational capacity, and allowed the BRS to reinsert itself as a critical observer.

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Refugees are returning home but not for the right reasons

Data from the UN says that more refugees went back to their countries due to adverse conditions, while citizenship confirmations reduced

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Despite the fact that the estimated number of refugees fell marginally by 3% in 2025 to 4.16 crore, the recent report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for 2025 shows that certain groups continue to be affected. Of these, about 60 lakh (15%) are Palestinian refugees.

The drop was mainly driven by 1.47 crore returning to their countries, which is the second highest number of people returning since the UNHCR first reported the figures in 1965. This is reflected in the increase in the number of refugees attaining "solutions" for their predicaments **(Chart 4)**.

However, the report noted that they returned to fragile situations due to adverse conditions and mounting pressures in the asylum countries. For instance, Iran and Pakistan had granted asylum to people from Afghanistan, who had been forced to escape war, violence and persecution. However, both countries have now introduced restrictive policies towards Afghans, due to which the two nations saw a notable decline in the number of people needing protection in 2025 **(Chart 2)**. Nearly 19.5 lakh refugees from these two countries returned to Afghanistan.

Owing to governance and economic crises, Venezuela recorded the sharpest increase in refugees, people in refugee-like situations, and others in need of international protection, at 3%. Other countries that saw increases include South Sudan and Ukraine **(Chart 1)**.

Chart 3 shows the flows of asylum applications. More than nine lakh persons applied for asylum in the U.S. Ukraine remains the country of origin for most applications (7 lakh). The number of stateless people who have had their nationality confirmed or who acquired citizenship declined in 2025.

No way home

The data for the charts were sourced from the Global Trends Report by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

CHART 1: Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation, and other people in need of international protection by country of origin (2016-2025)

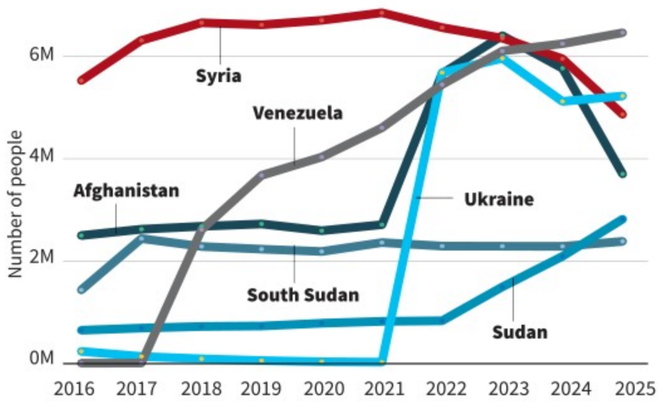


CHART 2: Refugees, people in a refugee-like situation and other people in need of international protection by country of asylum (2016-2025)

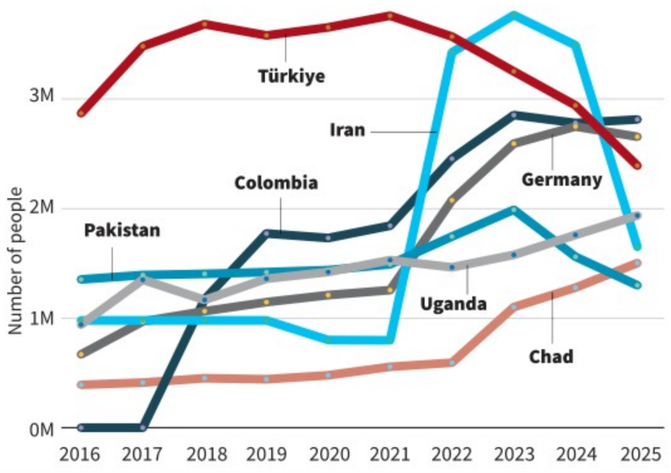


CHART 5: Number of stateless people who have had their nationality confirmed or who acquired citizenship (2014-2025)

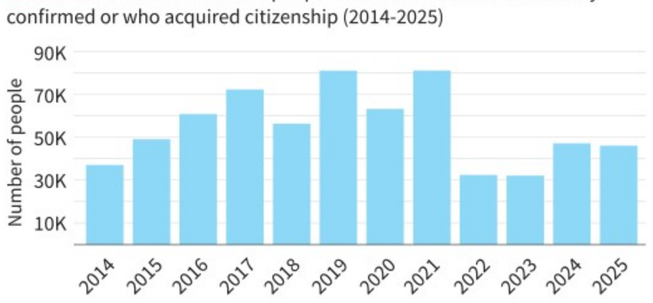


CHART 3: Number of people registering new individual asylum applications, recognised on a group basis or granted temporary protection in 2025

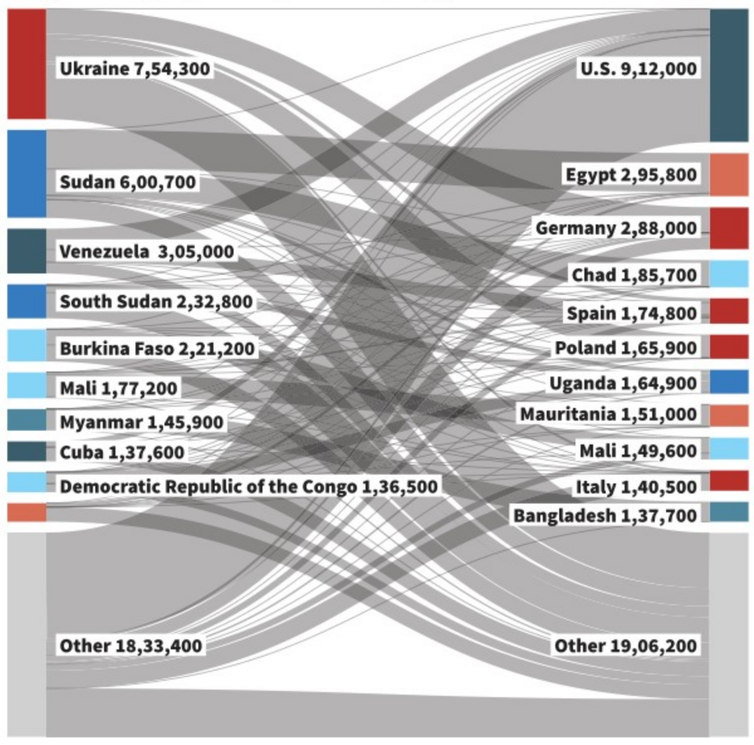


CHART 4: Refugees attaining "solutions" for their predicaments, a majority of which involved returns to their countries of origin, often due to adverse conditions

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1976

Survey to locate hidden treasure in Jaipur

New Delhi, June 15: A survey operation is on in Jaipur Fort to locate what is believed to be a hidden treasure lying in a secret chamber of the Maharaja's place for 250 years.

The survey has been undertaken on the basis of an ancient document which came to light recently, and which spoke of a treasure worth about Rs. 100 crores including jewellery valued at Rs. 32 crores having been hidden underground in the fort. The document said it belonged to the then Maharaja Jaisinghji of Jaipur. The Union Minister of State for Revenue and Banking Mr. Pranab Mukerjee said to-day that since the document after examination by experts of the national archives appeared to be genuine it was considered worthwhile to undertake the search operation though "there is no certainty whether the reported treasure is still in existence".

Mr. Mukerjee said it had been agreed with the owners of the Jaigarh fort that in the event of discovery of the treasure, it would be shared between the Government of India and them in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878. This Act has been made applicable to Rajasthan under a notification issued by the State Government.

He made it clear that the search was being carried out on the basis of an agreement with the owners of the fort.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 16, 1926

Slavery in India

Mr. Lansbury asked whether the Government of India intended to deal with the form of slavery known as Kumis in Bengal and Chota Nagpur and whether the practice obtained over a large part of India and was condemned by the British population.

Earl Winterton replied that there was Kamiauti system in Bihar and that probably existed in other provinces under other names, but he would hesitate to agree that it obtained over a large part of India and he did not know the views of the British population on it. Legislation already existed in Bihar and Orissa to regulate this form of agreement and doubtless the local Government would take steps to render it more effective than appeared to be at present.

From Page One

U.S., Iran reach a deal to end fighting, open Strait

"We have always maintained that we do not seek to collect transit tolls, but fees for navigation services, environmental protection, ship insurance and other necessary services will be charged," Mr. Baqaei said on Monday.

"Under the agreements reached, the war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, are ended immediately and permanently. Furthermore, the naval blockade against Iran is terminated immediately and completely," read a statement issued by the Council Secretariat, which doesn't say anything about the Strait of Hormuz.

Talks for a final agreement, which would involve Iran's nuclear programme and sanctions, "will be postponed until after the other side has implemented its commitments under the memorandum", the secretariat added.

U.S. officials say the deal would extend the ceasefire by 60 days during which time talks on the core issued would be held.

Iran took control of the strait, a critical waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea, after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on February 28.

"This Great Deal will bring Peace and Security to the whole Region. With the opening of the Strait upon the signing of the Deal on Friday, for purposes of mine removal, oil will flow on both ends again for the Region, and the World!," Mr. Trump wrote in another post.

He said on Monday evening that "ships are starting to move, many loaded up with oil, out of the Strait of Hormuz."

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also confirmed the agreement, adding that "both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon."

"These pre-implementation discussions will lay the foundation for the technical talks and the official signing ceremony," he added.

India, Slovakia expand ties with a slew of MoUs

Slovakia has continued to support India's quest for a permanent seat on the UNSC and "reaffirmed its constructive approach" to India's membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group, as per the joint statement.

Defence and security cooperation would be "one of the key pillars" of the India-Slovakia relationship, as per the joint statement.

The two sides signed a Letter of Intent to promote defence cooperation – a move welcomed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico in their press statements. Through this framework, the governments would seek to collaborate more in defence technologies, defence industrial cooperation, capacity building, and research and development.

The two governments signed an MoU on digital technologies to provide structure to their digital cooperation, as they committed to deepening collaboration in AI, semiconductors and start-ups. They also agreed to explore cooperation in emerging fields, including the Internet of Things and 6G standardisation.

Largest parliamentary force from Bengal: NCPI

According to the information available on the NCPI's Facebook page, the party's head office is located in Hatgachha village under the Sankrail police station area of Howrah district. The Facebook page was created in the early hours of Monday. The party is run by a couple, Uttiya Kundu and his wife Shewly Kundu.

Later in the day, Ms. Kundu told reporters outside the Calcutta High Court that she was the founder president of this party but had resigned from the post. "The new president of the party can give details. I don't know who the new president is. In Tripura, we were with the NDA," Ms. Kundu, who was wearing an advocate's gown, said. She refused to comment on the merger of 20 Trinamool MPs with the NCPI.

A few functionaries who were associated with the party in the past said that they were completely in the dark as far as the development of the merging of Trinamool MPs was concerned.

"Uttiya Kundu and Shewly Kundu are in Delhi. Their phones have been switched off since last night. Nobody else in the party has any idea about the development. We started as a small party. Our organisation was never in touch with the BJP. But, it seems some people, as individuals, were in regular touch with the BJP," Titas Bhattacharya, who claimed to be the general secretary of the party, said. The green-and-saffron party office in rural Howrah saw the deployment of police and Central forces outside it on Monday. The compound housing the office bears graffiti reading "*Jaago Biswa* (Awaken the World)" and references to a Bengali periodical. The names of the Kundu couple are also written on the boundary wall at the entrance of the compound. Inside the compound, a banner of the NCPI was hung.

According to the Election Commission of India records, the NCPI was registered on February 2, 2023, at Jago Biswa building in Sankrail, Howrah. The party was allotted the symbol of a fountain pen by the EC. Three NCPI candidates had contested the Tripura Assembly election and secured a total of 822 votes.

PM welcomes West Asia deal, hopes peace will be restored

Modi is scheduled to meet U.S. President tomorrow on the sidelines of the G7 meeting to be held in France; several G7 countries have said the urgent opening of Strait of Hormuz is essential

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the agreement between Iran and the United States to end the conflict in West Asia that has been raging for more than three months, killing and injuring thousands, and disrupting shipping and energy markets.

"I welcome the understanding reached between the United States and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia, which has caused serious economic disruption across the world and led to loss of life in many countries," Mr. Modi said on X, from the Slovakian capital of Bratislava.

The Prime Minister arrived in the city on Sunday night for a bilateral visit after a day of events and meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron in Nice.

India hoped the deal would restore peace and stability as well, while ensuring the freedom of navigation and commerce, Mr. Modi said, welcoming further deliberations on the remaining issues so a "sustainable final agreement" is reached.

> India hopes that the implementation of this understanding will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce. We look forward to deliberations on the remaining issues reaching a sustainable final agreement
>
> **NARENDRA MODI,** Prime Minister

Death of 3 sailors in U.S. attacks off the coast of Oman has evoked anger and grief in India

The deal is expected to be signed by Iran and the U.S. in Geneva on Friday, but details of the terms remain hazy. Mr. Modi will travel to Evian-les-Bains in the French Alps on Tuesday morning to participate in sessions with the leaders of the G7 group of wealthy countries.

Mission for Hormuz

Host nation France, along with the U.K., Germany, and Italy welcomed the U.S.-Iran understanding on Monday, congratulating the two countries and others, including mediators Qatar and Pakistan.

The countries said the urgent opening of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway transporting 20% of the world's oil, was essential.

They are willing to conduct a "strictly defensive and independent" mission to "reassure commercial shipping" and to clear mines, the statement said. These countries - all members of the G7 - also said that Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon.

The focus, however, at the G7 will be U.S. President Donald Trump, who arrived at the resort on Monday evening. A meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump is set for 2.45 p.m. local time on Wednesday. The two men go into the meeting with several challenging issues looming before them.

Indians have reacted – on the streets and online – with anger at the death of three Indian sailors killed in U.S. attacks off the coast of Oman last week. There is also the issue of a protracted trade agreement which was announced in February but has still not been formally singed.

Indian seafarers not to be deployed in conflict zones: DGS

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) has advised maritime recruitment and placement agencies not to deploy Indian seafarers to conflict zones until further notice. However, companies may carry out crew changes in emergency situations with the consent of the crew.

The safety advisory sent to all stakeholders comes days after three Indian seafarers were killed in a U.S. strike on *Settebello* off the coast of Oman. The shipping regulator said recent developments in the Gulf region, particularly in and around the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, had resulted in multiple security incidents involving merchant vessels carrying Indian seafarers.

Navigational warnings

Incidents involving *Marivex*, *Settebello* and *Jalveer* during the past few days highlighted the increasing risks faced by commercial ships operating in the region. The DGS directed masters of vessels operating in or transiting through the Gulf region, including the Strait of Hormuz, to maintain heightened security awareness, closely monitor navigational warnings issued by security agencies, and implement all applicable ship security measures.

"This Directorate further reiterates that all Recruitment and Placement Service License (RPSL) companies and shipping companies are advised not to deploy or send Indian seafarers to conflict areas until further orders."

The DGS said it was closely monitoring the evolving situation in coordination with various Ministries, the Indian Navy and other stakeholders to ensure safety and welfare.

The DGS urged all maritime stakeholders to exercise the highest degree of vigilance and caution while operating in the conflict zone and to promptly report any incident involving Indian seafarers to the authorities concerned.

U.K. arrests Indian man on Russian shadow fleet

Press Trust of India
LONDON

An Indian man was arrested by U.K. authorities in connection with the alleged violation of Western sanctions on Russia. The arrest was made during a joint operation between the U.K.'s National Crime Agency (NCA) and the British armed forces to intercept a Russian shadow fleet oil tanker in the English Channel.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed on Sunday that the vessel *SMYRTOS* was boarded by Royal Marine Commandos and specially trained law enforcement officers from the NCA in the first U.K.-led operation of its kind.

"A 38-year-old Indian national has been taken into custody where he will be interviewed by NCA investigators... We will not be commenting further at this time," the NCA spokesperson said.

According to the U.K. crime agency, 24 Indian and Georgian Indian crew members remain on board the vessel and are "assisting with the investigation".

Limited traffic through Hormuz, despite Trump's announcement

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

Announcing the peace deal with Iran, U.S. President Donald Trump said he had authorised the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the removal of the U.S. naval blockade. He later indicated that ships were already moving along the route close to Oman.

However, vessel-tracking data suggested that traffic through the Strait remained limited on Monday. While a few ships transited the passage during the day, many vessels remained clustered near Iran's Qeshm and Larak islands, with smaller concentrations south of the Strait and around Oman's Shinas port.

Among the vessels that crossed was Petronet LNG's *Disha*, expected to arrive at Dahej in Gujarat on June 18. Since the conflict began, 15 India-bound ships, including 10 Indian-flagged vessels, have transited the Strait. Another 13 Indian-flagged ships carrying 325 seafarers remain west of the waterway.

Maritime intelligence publication *Lloyd's List* estimates that about 600 ships remain stranded west of the chokepoint. Last week, Mr. Trump claimed that the U.S. military had quietly assisted around 200 commercial vessels through the Strait since May.

In limbo: A drone view shows vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman on Monday. REUTERS

Industry stakeholders remain cautious, seeking greater clarity on transit arrangements before resuming normal operations. Shipping companies would prefer a return to the earlier regime of unrestricted passage through the established traffic separation schemes largely in the centre of the Strait.

Capt. Ritesh Kumar, who has transited the strait some 150 times on a ship, says that in the past, Strait of Hormuz passage was like open sea passage with no payments to any nation whatsoever or even reporting, unlike say in the Singapore and Malacca straits, where reporting is mandatory for safety of navigation.

Maritime service fee

On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tehran did not intend to impose transit tolls, though maritime service fees for navigation and environmental protection would be charged.

"The statements by the U.S. and Iran remain unclear and do not provide sufficient information regarding timings and safe routes," said Jakob Larsen, Chief Safety and Security Officer at Bimco, a shipping industry body representing shipowners. He said the situation remained volatile and shipowners should continue conducting thorough risk assessments. Echoing wider industry sentiment, Richard Meade, Editor-in-Chief of *Lloyd's List*, noted that insurers – often considered the shipping sector's most reliable risk barometer – remain unconvinced.

In India, however, marine cargo war-risk insurance costs have eased. K.S. Vishvanath, marine insurance consultant and author, said rates that had risen to around 0.20% of the insured value fell to approximately 0.10% after the government announced the Bharat Maritime Pool.

While pricing continues to vary by route and risk profile, Indian insurers largely rely on guidance from GIC Re in assessing and underwriting war risks, he added.

(With inputs from Saptaparno Ghosh)

Congress flays Union govt. over foreign policy issues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress has criticised the Modi government over its foreign outreach, underlining that Pakistan's role in the U.S.-Iran deal coupled with its deepening strategic ties with China poses a formidable geopolitical challenge for India.

Congress general secretary in charge of (communication) Jairam Ramesh said that while the unrestricted re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz will certainly bring great relief to India, it does not mean the structural problems the economy faces will be resolved.

Pakistan, which had been successfully isolated by India after its orchestration of the terror attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, now seems to have acquired a new regional and global influence, the Congress leader claimed.

"This, coupled with China's deep embedding in Pakistan's strategic apparatus, poses a formidable geopolitical challenge for India's foreign policy," Mr. Ramesh said.

In Manipur, mob opposes treatment for 3 Kuki persons injured in attack

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Security personnel on Monday wielded batons and fired tear gas shells to disperse a mob that gathered outside the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Manipur capital Imphal to oppose the treatment being given in the hospital to three Kuki persons injured in an attack.

Officials in the conflict-scarred State said the three were injured in a gunfight at a place between Leilon Vaiphei and Konsakhul villages in Kangpokpi district at about 6 a.m. The gunfight continued for about 30 minutes before the security forces reached the spot. The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), an apex body of the Kuki group of tribes, blamed the attack on the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) and its "proxy", the Kamson faction of the Zeliangrong United Front. The NSCN is also known as the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.

The apex body of Kuki group of tribes, KIM, demanded that those involved in the attack be arrested and prosecuted. ANI

Protest against the trio

A crowd gathered outside the RIMS opposed the treatment of the trio, claiming they were extremists, and shouted slogans against the security forces for "transporting" them to the RIMS.

Reacting to the protests, the Leimakhong Area Chief's Organisation (in the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district) urged authorities to ensure that they received medical care in a safe and secure environment.

The KIM also expressed concern about the safety of the injured trio and said attacks against civilians were unacceptable, inhuman, and a direct threat to the rule of law. It demanded immediate and decisive action from the government and security forces to identify, arrest, and prosecute all those involved in the attack.

Centre issues alert on potential drone attacks on vital installations

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Union government has warned of possible rogue drone attacks targeting vital installations along the borders, prompting security agencies to work on deploying counter-drone technology systems to safeguard critical assets across the country.

According to official sources, the Marine Security Wing of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued the alert on the emerging drone threat at Vital Assets and Vital Installations (VAVIs) located around the land and sea borders. It was stated that the current geo-political situation across the world had demonstrated that hostile drones could disrupt operations of critical VAVIs. "There is an urgent need to take concrete steps to safeguard our assets, especially those located near the borders from rogue drones by installing Anti-Drone Systems," the communication said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted the Anti Rogue Drone Technology Committee in the Border Security Force for evaluation and certification of new technology systems.

The Central Industrial Security Force had also formed a Sub-Committee Board of Officers to carry out surveys of VAVIs.

Amit Shah responsible for Trinamool 'split', merger bid, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused Union Minister Amit Shah of masterminding the split in the Trinamool Congress, which is the third-largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha, and of orchestrating the merger of the rebel group with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) to engineer a two-thirds majority for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the Lower House.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh alleged that "decency, decorum, and devotion to constitutional values and principles remain vulnerable and threatened" every day that Mr. Shah continues in office.

"A desperate Union Home Minister – who is an absolute disgrace to the position once held by Sardar Patel – has taken Indian democracy to new lows in a shameless manner," he said on X.

Terming the merger an "illegal breakaway", Mr. Ramesh said that the NCPI was only a three-year-old political outfit that was hardly known. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Janata Dal (United), Mr. Ramesh said, should actually protest their "downgrade" through such "underhand tactics" and in such a "disgusting" manner, since the NCPI would now be the largest NDA ally.

No idea about merger, says Bengal MLA after Trinamool MPs' move

We are principal Opposition party in the Bengal Assembly, says Ritabrata, a day after 20 MPs announced they will merge with regional party NCPI

Sobhana K. Nair
Sreeparna Banerjee
NEW DELHI

Ritabrata Banerjee said the Legislature Party had 'no idea' about merging with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India. FILE PHOTO

Indicating further fragmentation in the Trinamool Congress, the rebel factions of the party – one in the Lok Sabha and the other in the West Bengal Assembly – have spoken in different voices.

While the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Ritabrata Banerjee, who claims the support of 65 MLAs, said the Legislature Party had "no idea" about merging with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), their colleagues in the Lok Sabha had already announced such a move.

On Sunday night, 20 MPs elected on the Trinamool symbol informed the Lok Sabha Speaker that they had merged with the NCPI, a registered regional party. Later, speaking to reporters, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, who is leading the faction, said that this group "will collaborate" with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Mr. Banerjee, meanwhile, struck a different note, insisting on playing the role of the Opposition. Speaking to *The Hindu* on Monday, Mr. Banerjee said: "We are the principal Opposition party in the West Bengal Assembly." On whether the rebel MLAs would merge with the NCPI, he said no such decision had been taken.

Mr. Banerjee later told reporters in Kolkata that he had learnt about the decision of the 20 MPs to merge with the NCPI through the media. "It is their decision; their collective has taken such a decision. As far as our collective is concerned, we have no such idea," he said. He added that while not all 65 MLAs were present in Kolkata, many met and consulted. "As far as the Legislature Party is concerned, we do not know any such thing," he said.

For a merger, the support of two-thirds of the Legislature Party in Parliament as well as the Assembly is required. With Mr. Banerjee's bloc refusing any such move, it will be difficult for Ms. Dastidar's faction to press its claim on the party and symbol.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool faction aligned with party founder Mamata Banerjee remained silent on any action against the 20 MPs. On Sunday, Trinamool MPs Sagarika Ghose and Kirti Azad had submitted a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla before the 20 rebel leaders met him. The letter urged the Speaker not to recognise or grant separate status to any rebel faction. The letter from party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said the Trinamool was a "single, indivisible political party".

Merger may allow rebels to vote in LS prior to any ruling on disqualification

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Political shake-up: Rebel Trinamool MPs meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at his residence in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

The decision made by the rebel MPs of the Trinamool Congress to merge with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India might not be a foolproof way of avoiding disqualification under the anti-defection law, but it can allow them to vote in the Lok Sabha, pending a decision from the Speaker in case the party files a petition seeking their disqualification.

With sources in the government indicating that the Centre is likely to bring the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty First Amendment) Bill, 2026, or the Delimitation Bill, as early as the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which is likely to begin in mid-July, it becomes crucial that this bloc, which has promised support to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) gets to vote when the said Bills are taken up. In April, the government had fallen short of the two-thirds majority required for its passage.

On Sunday, the rebel Trinamool camp had approached Speaker Om Birla, submitting the names of 20 MPs who make up two-thirds of the Trinamool Parliamentary Party in the House, that they would be merging with the NCPI.

"Under the 10th Schedule, only the original political party can merge with another party, and thereafter the MPs or MLAs can make a claim that their original party has merged, and they agree to that merger, and have become members of that party. Thus, MPs alone cannot merge with any other party. However, till the Speaker gives any ruling, these MPs can vote in favour of any Bills which are taking up as part of the legislative business," according to former Lok Sabha Secretary General and constitutional law expert P.D.T. Achary.

The Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool is yet to file a disqualification petition.

The move to merge helps the rebel bloc avoid a long process, which would have ensued in case they had approached the Election Commission, and staked claim to be the "real Trinamool Congress", especially in view of the Supreme Court judgment in the case of the Shiv Sena's split in Maharashtra.

The rebels seem to have chosen to merge with the NCPI to secure immediate parliamentary recognition as a separate bloc rather than fighting a long-drawn symbol battle as, under Para 15 of the Symbols Order, the Election Commission relies on the strict legal framework of the 1971 *Sadiq Ali* ruling.

Kakoli seeks Kalyan's expulsion from LS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a letter to Speaker Om Birla, Lok Sabha member Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, who is leading the rebel faction of Trinamool Congress MPs, has sought the expulsion of party chief whip and Mamata Banerjee loyalist Kalyan Banerjee for "repeated verbal abuse and misogynistic remarks directed" at her and other women members during the sittings of the House.

In her letter dated June 10, the MP from Barasat constituency in West Bengal said the complaint was a follow-up to an earlier one dated May 28 and sought immediate intervention and action against Mr. Banerjee. Ms. Dastidar said Mr. Banerjee had, on several occasions, used "objectionable, disrespectful and inappropriate language against her and other women members during parliamentary proceedings." She said the conduct formed part of a recurring pattern of "personal attacks, intimidation and misogynistic comments that went beyond the limits of robust political disagreement and entered the realm of personal abuse and harassment".

Ms. Dastidar said the conduct had not only caused personal anguish but had created an atmosphere that discouraged the free participation of women in parliamentary proceedings.

ED questions Abhishek for 11 hours in primary school recruitment scam case

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

Abhishek Banerjee arriving at the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office on Monday. PTI

The Enforcement Directorate questioned Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in Kolkata for 11 hours on Monday, in connection with the alleged primary school jobs scam case.

Mr. Banerjee arrived at the ED's CGO Complex office at 11 a.m. in response to a summons in a money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the recruitment of primary school teachers. He left the ED office at night.

"I was questioned for over eight hours yesterday [on Sunday] and for 11 hours today [Monday]. This is a 2023 case and I have appeared before the agency 10-12 times. I won't say whether there is a political pressure or not. The less said of the BJP, the better. On the one side, they break our party and indulge in post-poll violence. Even if you slit my throat, I won't cower down...I will appear before the agency if they summon me even in the future," Mr. Banerjee said, while leaving the ED office.

Officials said Mr. Banerjee was questioned over the alleged money trail in the scam. "He was asked questions regarding some financial documents, digital records, and statements of other accused to trace the alleged proceeds of crime. Investigators sought details about who handled the funds, how they were moved across accounts and entities, and whether these transactions were layered to conceal their origin," said an officer on the request of anonymity.

The ED questioning came a day after Mr. Banerjee was quizzed by the West Bengal CID in connection with the alleged forgery of Trinamool Congress MLAs's signatures on documents related to the appointment of the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly.

He is also scheduled to appear before the CID again on Tuesday in connection with the same case.

SC issues notice on plea against second term of RLM Minister

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice on a plea challenging the appointment of Deepak Prakash as Panchayati Raj Minister of Bihar for a second time without being elected to either House of the State legislature.

A Bench sought responses from the Bihar government, the Election Commission and Mr. Prakash on a petition filed by Bihar resident Rakesh Kumar Singh. The plea challenges Mr. Prakash's reappointment as well as his continuance in office under Article 164(4) of the Constitution.

On Article 164(4)

Article 164(4) permits a person who is not a member of the State legislature to be appointed a Minister for a maximum period of six consecutive months. If the person fails to secure election to either House of the legislature within that period, he ceases to hold ministerial office. The court has previously ruled that the six-month grace period cannot be invoked to keep reappointing a non-legislator to ministerial office without an electoral mandate.

Mr. Prakash, son of Rashtriya Lok Morcha leader Upendra Kushwaha, was appointed Minister on November 20, 2025, in the then Nitish Kumar Cabinet. He was not a member of either the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council.

Following the constitution of a new Council of Ministers after Samrat Choudhary assumed office as Chief Minister, Mr. Prakash was again sworn in as Minister on May 7.

The petition is likely to be listed next for hearing on July 15.

Cockroach party founder manhandled, slapped during protest in Jaipur; two youth detained

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke was allegedly manhandled and slapped during a protest in Jaipur on Monday, triggering chaos and a brief struggle at the venue. The police detained two youth in connection with the incident.

The demonstration, attended by a large number of youth, was organised at Shaheed Smarak to protest over the issues of the alleged National Eligibility-cum-Entrance (NEET) paper leak, unemployment and corruption.

When Mr. Dipke arrived at the protest site and was being carried on shoulders of supporters, some miscreants in the crowd allegedly manhandled him, slapped him multiple times and attempted to pull him down. Mr. Dipke's supporters caught hold of the accused and assaulted them before the police intervened.

As tempers ran high, Mr. Dipke appealed to the protesters not to assault the individuals involved in the attack. The CJP founder said physical attacks were a sign of "fear and cowardice". "I am a follower of Gandhi and Ambedkar, and I will keep fighting this battle with peace and love," he said.

Abhijeet Dipke

'Tactic to threaten CJP'

In a video message released on his X account, Mr. Dipke urged his supporters not to get distracted from the demand for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. He said the attack was a tactic to threaten the CJP and divert attention from the real issues, and added: "To the haters, I want to say 'get well soon'!"

During the protest, many youngsters carried banners and placards and raised slogans demanding Mr. Pradhan's resignation over alleged irregularities in major examinations.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Dipke criticised the handling of education-related issues and questioned the remarks of a Rajasthan Minister who had described the NEET paper leak as "no big deal".

He cited the collapse of a government school building in Jhalawar, in which seven students were killed.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

No: SHAR: CMG CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-04/26-27 **Dt: 11.06.2026**

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for following works;

Name of Work	Tender No	Estimate Cost
AMC for Civil & PH works in PHC-II area, SDSC for year 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 (Two years).	T/C-26-007	₹ 227.54 Lakhs

Tender documents can be downloaded up to **29.06.2026**, **14:30** hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600)
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/17/2026 **Date : 12.06.2026**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from **manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees** on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of drugs for the year 2026-27.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/VIT-A/RC/2026/016 Dtd. 12/06/2026	1

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 24.06.2026, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 29.06.2026, 11.30 am. Tender documents can be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Website-https://aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in

NON-FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Offline applications from eligible Indian citizens/other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules are invited to fill up following **Non-Faculty (Group A)** various posts on **Direct Recruitment Basis** at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh):

Sr. No.	Name of the post	Group	Pay level (7th CPC)	No. of Vacancies					
				UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total
1.	Child Psychologist	A	Level 10	1	-	-	-	-	1
2.	Clinical Psychologist	A	Level 10	1	-	-	-	-	1
3.	Medical Officer (AYUSH)	A	Level 10	3 (Ayurveda-01, Homeopathy-01, Yoga & Naturopathy-01)	-	-	-	-	3

The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. The Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur reserves the right to change the number of the vacancies including reserved vacancies as per the Govt. of India rules/circulars. **Application form along with Brief and PowerPoint formats are available on institute's website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in**

All the applicants are advised to check AIIMS, Gorakhpur website **www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in** on Regular basis for any further updates.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS Gorakhpur

INBRIEF

SC seeks govt. response to plea on RTE quota in Punjab

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and the Punjab government on a plea alleging failure to implement the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 in Punjab, particularly the mandate under Section 12(1)(c) requiring private unaided schools to reserve 25% of entry-level seats for children from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups. At the outset of the hearing, a Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana asked the petitioner, who runs an NGO and appeared at the court in person, whether he had conducted any survey to substantiate the allegations. The petitioner submitted that the law remained unimplemented in Punjab for the past 15 years.

Centre hikes windfall tax on diesel, aviation fuel exports

The government on Monday hiked windfall gains tax on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), while retaining the levy on petrol for the fortnight beginning June 16. The rate of special additional excise duty (SAED) on export of diesel will be ₹14 a litre, up from ₹13.5 a litre at present. The SAED on export of ATF will be ₹12.5 a litre, up from ₹9.5 a litre. There is no change in the rate of duty on exports of petrol and it continues to be at ₹1.5 a litre. The Finance Ministry, in a notification, said the duty hikes would be effective from June 16. Also, there is no change in the existing duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption. PTI

After flak, NCERT to restore original 'Dancing Girl' image

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will replace the modified image of the iconic "Dancing Girl" figurine of Mohenjo-daro in its Class 9 Arts textbook with the original version, following criticism over the 'clothed' depiction of the artefact, confirmed its Director Dinesh Saklani. The move comes as a debate erupted over the representation of one of the most recognisable archaeological artefacts from the Indus Valley Civilisation in school textbooks. The bronze figurine was depicted with its bare torso covered in the opening chapter, "History of Arts", of *Madhurima*, NCERT's new Class 9 Arts education textbook. In the version carried in the textbook, the torso of the figurine appears visually altered compared to the photographs of the original artefact, with shading used across the upper body that obscures anatomical details visible in the sculpture. PTI

Heatwaves, ozone raise cardiac death risk: study

Peer-reviewed study reports that surface ozone reaches 85-110 micrograms per cubic metre in northern India during heatwaves; exceeds the WHO guideline of 70 micrograms per cubic metre

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Surface ozone is not released directly but forms when sunlight drives a reaction among other pollutants. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

While surface ozone – a pollutant harmful to the heart and lungs – already exceeds safe limits across much of India in the hot pre-monsoon months, a new study finds that heatwaves push it to still higher levels, thus adding several hundred deaths to a far larger toll that the study links to ozone across the season.

The peer-reviewed study, published in the Nature Portfolio journal *npj Clean Air* on June 12, reports that surface ozone reaches 85-110 micrograms per cubic metre in northern India during heatwaves and exceeds the World Health Organization guideline of 70 micrograms per cubic metre in every region of the country. The levels fall back within three to four days of a heatwave ending.

Because ozone level stays high for much of the season, the study attributes a large number of deaths to it even outside heatwaves. During the heatwave days of 2024, it links about 26,500 deaths from ischaemic heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to ozone exposure.

However, such health conditions are present before as well as after the heat too. The heatwave's contribution to the toll is the rise in it over the preceding days: about 490 additional heart-disease deaths and 342 from COPD, or roughly 830 in all.

The overall numbers are so large mainly because of how they are calculated. They are not directly counted. The study applies a small increase in an individual's risk of dying from these two common diseases to India's population of more than a billion; even a slight per-person risk, spread across so many people and two of the country's leading causes of death, adds up to tens of thousands.

The authors note that the mortality figures had to be modelled, as continuous ground-level ozone measurements were not available for the specific heatwave days in many affected cities. Therefore, the estimates rely on the assumed relationship between ozone exposure and disease rather than direct observation.

Surface ozone is not released directly but forms when sunlight drives a reaction among other pollutants, a process that speeds up in heat. "Ozone is very harmful, while NO_2 (nitrogen dioxide) and HCHO (formaldehyde) directly damage the respiratory system," the authors write, referring to two of the gases involved in forming ozone.

The authors describe the work as the first comprehensive, long-term, and country-wide assessment of surface ozone during heatwaves in India, noting that previous studies were largely limited to individual cities or regions. They counted 188 heatwave events over the two decades with most severe years – 2010, 2016, 2019, and 2024 – following strong El Niño episodes. The Western Himalayas recorded the steepest long-term rise in ozone level.

NEET scams: three held for targeting medical aspirants

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ahmedabad Police have arrested three persons in separate cyberfraud cases for targeting medical aspirants.

The Cyber Crime Branch uncovered a Telegram scam falsely promising leaked NEET-UG 2026 re-exam papers, and in a separate case, a 19-year-old from Bihar allegedly hacked hundreds of student accounts to steal their NEET-UG refunds.

In the first case, the police arrested two key suspects in Rajasthan – Sumer Singh from Jaipur and Akash Meena from Kota – for running a cyberfraud network that swindled unassuming persons.

According to the police, the accused created a network of Telegram channels, including one named "Raghav_Singh_NEET" and seven others, which they later handed over to an anonymous Telegram user operating under the alias "Private Mafia". Using these channels, the duo circulated highly deceptive posts and advertisements claiming they possessed the confidential NEET re-exam question papers.

Over the last month alone, the suspects contacted about 1,000 mobile numbers and Telegram channels, executing transactions worth ₹1.5 crore.

In the other case, authorities tracked a 19-year-old suspect, Navin Kumar, to Bihar for executing a massive digital heist targeting individual student accounts. Mr. Kumar reportedly targeted the official NEET-UG 2026 portal accounts of 350 candidates.

Home Secretary reviews security

NEW DELHI
Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Monday reviewed the preparedness of the State governments for the coming National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate NEET(UG) re-examination, with a special focus on student convenience, security arrangements, and the integrity of the examination process, the Union Home Ministry said in a statement. The examination will be held on June 21.

On the draw

Social media, video platforms surpass traditional outlets as leading news sources: report

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Trust in news is at its lowest level globally since 2015, as interest in news dwindles; at the same time, more people around the world are accessing news through third-party platforms, such as social media and video networks, rather than through websites and television channels of established news brands, according to the 15th edition of the Reuters Institute's Digital News Report.

The report, produced in collaboration with the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, is based on an online survey of nearly one lakh people across 48 markets worldwide.

Consumption patterns have changed, the study found, with audiences' growing disengagement with news; even so, trust in established news brands and support for the idea of impartial news persist.

However, globally, social media and video networks – Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube – have overtaken news organisations' own websites and apps as the most widely used means of accessing news.

The proportion of people using social media and video networks as their primary source of news has also risen; while this trend is more evident among younger audiences, it is prevalent across all age groups, the study found.

It also found that the younger generations are unlikely to acquire the news habits of their parents, such as reading a newspaper.

In fact, older audiences are moving towards the consumption habits of younger audiences, the study found.

There has also been a rise in the use of AI chatbots as a means of accessing news, the study found, with 10% of respondents globally now using them. This is especially true among audiences below 35 years of age.

Less trust in news

Paradoxically, while traditional news sources decline amid the emergence of platforms, people are also more concerned about misinformation and put less trust in the news they come across.

There has been a marked rise in the consumption of online news videos. The study found that 77% of its global sample consume online news videos every week.

These people are, however, consuming them not on news websites or apps but on third-party platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook.

Marginal increase in unemployment rate in May

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate (UR) in the country increased by 0.3 percentage points to 5.5% in May compared with April, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in New Delhi on Monday.

While rural unemployment increased from 4.6% in April to 5.1% in May, urban unemployment decreased marginally from 6.6% in April to 6.4% in May. The unemployment rate among rural males of 15 years and above was 5.2% during May. For rural females in the same age group, it was 4.7%. In urban areas, the unemployment rate among females was 8.2% compared with 5.9% observed for males.

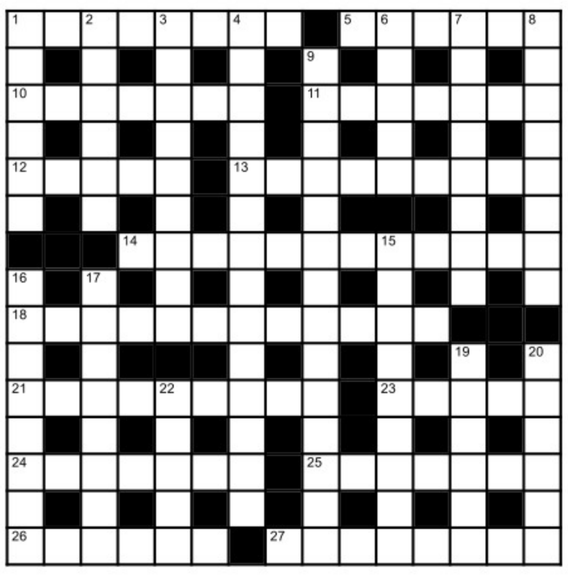
The Labour Force Participation Rate for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 54.4% in May. It was 55% in April.

TH CROSSWORD + 14821

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Fail to impress female? Totally overweight after gaining pounds (4,4)
5 Save share certificate to receive money (6)
10 Resume painting after break (7)
11 Special talent of performer behind revolutionary special effects (1,6)
12 Personnel in academy checking nuclear physics device (5)
13 Consuming drink, sailor played cards (9)
14 Position providing a clear view of singer at ground entertaining team (8,4)
18 Most innocent groups broken by swindler primarily getting control of finances (5,7)
21 One at the helm of small steamer moving close to lagoon (9)
23 Old lady having constant fatigue, finally better (5)
24 Popular detective inspector penning book about foremost of criminals (7)
25 Tell about liaison with model giving satisfaction (7)
26 Criminal cut fellow's part of outer ear (6)
27 Bind together granite rocks containing sulphur (8)

Down

1 In spite of slump, acquires gold (3,3)
2 Missing error in journal (6)
3 Husband lives in European country? Right (9)
4 Ability to tolerate unpleasant things is a result of doing sit-ups? (1,6,7)
6 Raccoon-like animal in bed, biting a kid at centre (5)
7 Endlessly nattering about private communications system (8)
8 Hanger-on in usual spot, drinking alcohol at premiere (8)
9 Show-offs, both in sixties, romping around island (14)
15 One seen in kitchen, say, above good British diner (9)
16 Picaresque novel is copied (8)
17 American economist fired reckless fellow (8)
19 Observed stealing crown in disguise (6)
20 Twisted ankle, crossing ultimately slippery compound (6)
22 Mechanical device stolen by robber at chalet (5)

SUDOKU

5								
7	4					1		
				7	8		3	6
		9	2				5	
8								2
	7				4	8		
2	5		3	1				
		6					2	4
								1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6913 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

A	P	P	R	O	P	R	I	A	T	E			
S		R		C		H		U		R		S	U
S	W	I	F	T	L	Y		S	H	A	D	O	W	S
O		D		O		T		T		S		U		E
C	H	E	A	P		H	A	R	V	E	S	T	E	D
I				U		M		I				H		
A	R	A	B	S		S	T	A	T	E	M	E	N	T
T		N		E						S		R		R
E	X	C	E	S	S	I	V	E		S	I	N	C	E
		H				N		A		E				A
P	R	O	F	E	S	S	O	R		N	E	C	K	S
U		R		A		P		A		T		A		U
T	H	E	A	T	R	E		C	L	I	M	B	E	R
S		D		E		C		H		A		I		E
				N	E	T	H	E	R	L	A	N	D	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	2	8	1	7	4	5	6	9
7	1	5	6	9	8	4	3	2
4	6	9	3	2	5	7	8	1
8	7	6	9	5	1	3	2	4
9	3	2	4	8	7	1	5	6
1	5	4	2	3	6	8	9	7
6	9	7	5	4	3	2	1	8
2	8	3	7	1	9	6	4	5
5	4	1	8	6	2	9	7	3

FAITH

The power of Govinda nama

Kurai Ondrum Illai Govinda (I have no grievances) is a famous lyric familiar to all devotees, wherein the composer (Rajaji) uses Venkateswara (Srinivasa) and Govinda (Krishna) interchangeably. Spiritual scholars have for long held that Srinivasa, the Lord of Tirupati, is a combination of Rama and Krishna, who manifested to alleviate the grievances of devotees.

In Tiruppavai, Andal starts with Narayana (and after chanting His many names), ends it with Govinda, three times. When one says Govinda, one gets the impression that He is very near, rushing to help one, said Damal Perundevi.

'Do not worry, I will take care of you,' was Krishna's stance, as He held the Govardhana mountain with one hand, herding cows, calves and all the residents under it safely, while Indra unleashed relentless rain. Seeing how Krishna held the mountain for seven days in the severe downpour, Govardhana mountain wanted to show appreciation in turn and when Srinivasa manifested, Govardhana became the seven mountains upon which Srinivasa rests. Govinda means nourisher of earth and when one chants His name, He comes running to the aid of the devotee.

All the Azhwars have sung on Tirupati (Srinivasa, Govinda), but Andal's salutation holds a special significance. During the Brahmotsavam, the Garuda Seva attracts lakhs of devotees. The procession will start only after the deity is adorned with the garland from Andal's home Srivilliputtur. It is an averment that Perumal will accept the devotion of those who surrender to Him and will protect them.

INBRIEF

Investors upbeat as clarity emerges on U.S.-Iran deal

Indian investors were elated as clarity emerged regarding the US-Iran deal, leading to decline in Brent crude prices. Sensex jumped 736.38 points, or 0.97%, to settle at 76,264.33. During the day, it zoomed 1,293.12 points, or 1.71%, to 76,821.07. Nifty surged 231 points, or 0.98%, to end at 23,853.90. During the day, the benchmark rallied 388.5 points, or 1.64%, to 24,011.40. "With core inflation firming to 3.9% and RBI raising its FY27 CPI forecast to 5.1%, inflation dynamics remain a key monitorable despite the near-term relief from softer crude prices. Going forward, investors will closely track the formal signing of the U.S.-Iran agreement, crude oil price trends, FII flow dynamics and evolving inflation expectations for further market direction," said Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

IRDAI moots changes to key norms governing insurers

Insurance regulator IRDAI is proposing amendments to registration regulations for insurance companies with the aim of enhancing ease of doing business, simplification of regulatory processes, reduction of compliance costs, enhancement of operational clarity and facilitation of capital infusion. The changes relate to eligibility criteria for Indian as well as foreign promoters; foreign investment safeguards, special purpose vehicles (SPVs), approval for transfer of shares, amalgamation of insurance companies with non-insurance companies, processing fees for applications, name of insurance companies; and forms and application procedures. On amendments proposed in definitions relating to foreign promoter, Indian promoter and SPV, IRDAI said the proposed amendments seek to ensure consistency and put in place safeguard mechanisms in view of the increase in limit of FDI to 100%.

WPI inflation jumps to 9.7% in May on surging fuel prices

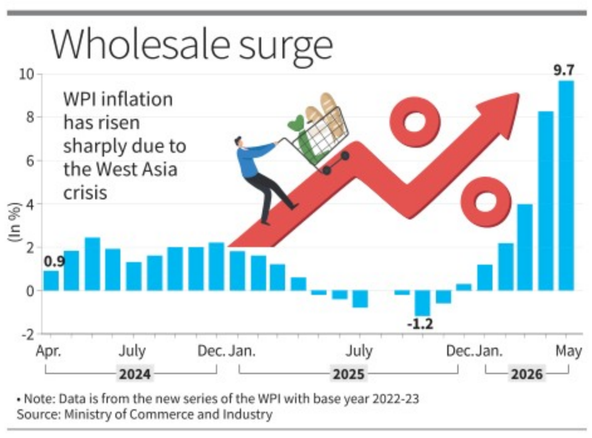
Govt. releases new series of Wholesale Price Index with an updated base year of 2022-23 along with new producer price indices in line with global best practices and IMF recommendations

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Inflation at the wholesale level rose to 9.7% in May 2026, primarily driven by surging prices of crude oil, natural gas, mineral oils and to a smaller extent, manufactured products, according to official data.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday released the new series of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with an updated base year of 2022-23 and wider ambit of goods measured. Due to the base year update, a historical comparison further back than April 2024 is not available. The May 2026 inflation rate is the highest since at least then.

Along with the new WPI, the Commerce Ministry also released the first editions of its Output Producer Price Index (OPPI), Trial Input Producer Price Index (IPPI), and Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI) of seven services – Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Passenger Air, and Telecom.



• Note: Data is from the new series of the WPI with base year 2022-23
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

WPI to be phased out

The government also said that the Producer Price Index (PPI) will replace the WPI in five years.

"Considering the wide usage of WPI in price escalation clauses, this index will be released for five years from the date of its release, along with PPI, and will be discontinued thereafter," the Commerce Ministry said in its release. "This would give sufficient time to users to switch from WPI to PPI."

It added that the transition from WPI to PPI is in line with the global best practices adopted by advanced economies and the recommendations of the IMF.

The surge in the WPI in May 2026 was driven overwhelmingly by soaring fuel prices that month as a result of the West Asia crisis.

Inflation in the crude oil and natural gas category jumped to 61.5% in May 2026, from 56.3% in the previous month. While this is a reflection of the elevated global oil and gas prices, it is also a result of a low base, since the new series of the WPI shows prices in this category contracted by 15.5% in May last year.

Similarly, inflation in the mineral oils category accelerated to 49.8% in May 2026 from 40.7% in April. Here, too, prices had contracted in May last year.

The WPI shows that inflation in the manufacturing and food segments also quickened in May 2026, albeit not as quickly as for fuel.

With peace deal in sight, oil prices slip to lowest in 3 months

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Crude prices could take up to a year to normalise to pre-war levels. REUTERS

Benchmark Brent Crude futures slipped to a more than three-month low on Monday with a peace deal between Iran and the United States in sight - putting an end to more than a 100 days of hostilities in West Asia that led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

During Monday's trade, Brent Crude futures (August) tumbled approximately 5.47%, or about $4.77, to $82.56 per barrel.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) also slipped about 6.1% to $79.71 per barrel on Monday.

Unrelatedly, addressing reporters at the bi-weekly briefing about the situation in West Asia, Sujata Sharma, Joint-Secretary at the Union Petroleum Ministry, informed that State-owned oil-marketing companies' under-recovery on petrol and diesel too had come down to ₹3 per litre and ₹27 per litre respectively.

OMCs continue to incur an under-recovery of about ₹700 per cylinder on LPG cylinders meant for domestic consumption.

Analysts opine that complete normalisation of prices may take time.

"Beyond the immediate price action, crude prices could take six months to a year to normalise to pre-war levels given that almost 10-11 million barrels per day of production has been shut in West Asia besides which some facilities have suffered damages," said Prashant Vasisht, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head, Corporate Ratings at ICRA.

Sarvam raises $234 mn in funding round from HCLTech, others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sarvam, a sovereign AI firm, on Monday said it had raised $234 million in the first close of its $300 million Series B at a post-money valuation of $1.5 billion. HCLTech and Bessemer Venture Partners invested in the round, with continued support from existing investors Khosla Ventures and Peak XV Partners, Sarvam said in a statement.

HCLTech would invest $150 million as the lead strategic investor in this round.

HCL's investment in Sarvam marked a significant step toward building the country's globally competitive AI ecosystem, CEO & MD Vijayakumar said.

Rupee strengthens 60 paise to settle at 94.58 against U.S. dollar

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The rupee strengthened 60 paise to settle at 94.58 against the U.S. dollar on Monday as global crude oil prices dropped sharply after U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. and Iran finalised a deal to end the war.

A surge in the domestic equity markets and a weaker U.S. dollar further drove the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 94.70 against the U.S. dollar and traded in the range of 94.45-94.77. Eventually, it settled at 94.58, up 60 paise from its previous close. The rupee jumped 67 paise to close at 95.18 against the greenback on Friday.

'SEBI move to group AMC staff pay a course correction'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Market experts backed SEBI's move to water-down executive remuneration disclosure norms for AMC staff stating it was a 'correction of overregulation.'

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s had proposed disclosure of salaries of high earning staff in mutual fund firms as a group would suffice, a departure from the current individual disclosure.

The decision was taken after industry bodies reached out to SEBI stating norm had to be relaxed considering staff privacy and the information being less significant to retail investors, according to the consultation paper.

As per March 20, 2026 Master Circular on MFs this benchmark was ₹1.02 crore in annual income and the top 10 staff earnings.

Unit holders do not require the granular disclosure shareholders would need.

Ashish Gupta, an industry professional, said unit holders were part of a trust structure and hence, do not need the granular disclosure shareholders would require. He agreed there were privacy concerns in disclosing individual salaries.

It was mentioned in the consultation paper the proposals were based on requests from the MF industry bodies. However, a person familiar with the matter said the issue did not go to the in-house MF panel for discussion.

"The real issue is if the disclosure framework enables investors and regulators to identify potential conflicts and assess if compensation structures are aligned to interests of unit holders," said Sonam Chandwani, managing partner, KS Legal & Associates, adding information transparency must be balanced against concerns relating to privacy and practical utility of disclosures.

Razorpay files papers with SEBI for up to ₹6,000 cr. IPO

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Fintech firm Razorpay has confidentially submitted draft documents to markets regulator for an Initial Public Offering (IPO), with people familiar with the matter pegging the issue size in the range of ₹5,000-₹6,000 crore.

In a public notice on Monday, the company said it has filed "the pre-filed draft red herring prospectus with SEBI and the stock exchanges... in relation to the proposed initial public offering of its equity shares on the main-board of the stock exchanges".

The company did not disclose the size of the proposed issue.

U.S. SC rejects TCS appeal in $168-mn trade secrets case

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court turned away on Monday a bid by India-based Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to overturn a $168 million award won against it by DXC Technology for allegedly stealing trade secrets related to life-insurance software.

Tata had appealed after a lower court upheld a judge's decision to set the award at $56 million in compensatory damages and $112 million in punitive damages to Ashburn, Virginia-based DXC.

Passenger vehicle wholesales rise 27% in May to 4.39 lakh

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Passenger vehicles recorded wholesales of 4.39 lakh units, a growth of 27.3% year-on-year.

As many as 0.71 lakh three-wheelers were sold, in May, up 31.1% while the offtake of two-wheelers was 19.02 lakh, representing a growth of 14.8%, according to the data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Rajesh Menon, director general, SIAM said, "Passenger vehicles, three-wheelers and two-wheelers recorded the highest-ever sales of May in 2026, with high double-digit growth in each segment."

Stepping on gas: Maruti Suzuki cars parked beside an in-plant railway siding at its plant in Manesar, Haryana. REUTERS

Lower base effect

"Lower base effect of previous May and demand created due to reduced GST rates, with easier financing is again getting reflected in higher off-take this month," he added.

Total production of passenger vehicles, three- and two-wheelers, and quadricycle was 29,27,711.

Data for BMW, Mercedes, JLR and Volvo were not available, said SIAM.

APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

Recruitment of Chair Professor on 'Rural Labour' in honour of Late Shri S.R.Sankaran

NIRDPR invites applications for Chair Professor constituted in honour of Late Shri S.R. Sankaran, an eminent civil servant and acclaimed rural development administrator. The Chair Professor should be a person of National/International Eminence either from India or abroad who can guide and inspire research, consultations and also networks with academicians, administrators, political parties and civil society groups. He/she should possess qualifications normally required for a Senior Professor in a Central University.

Those who applied with reference to **Advt. No.07/2024 & 18/2025** need not apply again.

For Job profile, online submission of application and other details please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**

Last date for submission of online application is **15/07/2026**.

Advt.No.08/2026
File No: SRSC/16/1
Comp.no. 5100

Sd/-
Assistant Director
Administration (Section-I)

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
262713 001445	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 4200 GAR on Stock and Sale Basis	20.06.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/2063/Tender/2026 — *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
टोडरमल लेन, सिविल लाईन्स, अजमेर, Email :- ajmerada@gmail.com,
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749

क्रमांक :- अविप्रा/प.2/तकनीकी/2026-27/राजकाज 22734586 दिनांक :- 09/06/2026

E-TENDER - 08/2026-27

Bids for various work amounting Rs. 943-16 Lacs are invited from interested bidders for up to 22.07.2026, 6:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) & (http://sppp.raj.nic.in) http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada** departmental website.

UBN No. : AJD2627WSOB00055 - 00056
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4869 — **Executive Engineer**

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Ajmer
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar, near RIICO Watch Factory, Ph. No. 0145-2640265,
email: acepajmer@gmail.com, acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

S.No. F()ACE/Proj/Aj/AR-JJM /2026-27/1489 Date: 10/06/2026

CORRIGENDUM NO. 6
NIB Code:- PHE2526A6441 & UBN No. PHE2526WLOB13856)

In continuation to this office NIT No. 03/2025-26 issued vide letter no. 2436-2491 dated 11.02.2026. The following amendment are hereby notified:-

S.N.	Description	As per original NIT & Corrigendum 5	As per this corrigendum
1	Date & time for downloading of tender document	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 11.06.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 09.07.2026 up to 6:00 PM
2	Date & time for online submission of tender	From 24.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to up to 11.06.2026 at 6:00 PM	Up to 09.07.2026 at 06:00 PM
3	Date & time of physical submission of tender fee, RISL charges and EMD	12.06.2026 at 01:00 PM	Up to 10.07.2026 at 01:00 PM
4	Date & time of opening of technical bid	12.06.2026 at 03:00 PM	Up to 10.07.2026 at 03:00 PM

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in tender document.

(K.K. Agarwal)
Additional Chief Engineer
(Project) PHED, Ajmer

DIPR/C/10387/2026

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - Expression Of Interest
O/o the Chief Engineer (REES & PED),
Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
Notice inviting Expression Of Interest (EOI) for Repowering of the existing 2.025MW (225kWx 9 nos), WIND FARM of KSEBL to 5MW at KANJIKODE under TBCB model
E tender ID 2026_KSEB_855306_1
Last date & Time of submission of (EOI) **10-08-2026, 03.00 pm.** The EOI documents and other details may be downloaded from the website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.**
Email/Phone cerees@kseb.in-0471-2514336
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/F390/2026

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,सा0नि0वि0 वृत चूरू
क्रमांक :–375 दिनांक :– 05.06.2026
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2026–27
इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से जिला चूरू में सडक कार्य व आरयूबी कार्य (नियमानुसार दोष निवारण व सुधार अवधि) कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत राशि रू0 950.57 लाख की ई–निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 07.07.2026 सांय 6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। उक्त निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व विभागीय वेबसाईट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते है।
NIB No- PWD2627A0947
UBN No:-
1- PWD2627WLOB04104
2- PWD2627WSOB04105
DIPR/C/10166/2026
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि वृत चूरू

Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited
"SARAS SANKUL" J. L. N. MARG, JAIPUR – 302017, Ph. No. 2702501-08 : Direct: 0141-2710209
Email : rcdf@raiasthan.gov.in

No. :- RCDF/EDP/F.8(284)/2026-27/12786-823 Dated :- 10/06/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tenders are invited for "Selection of Service Provider for Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation (RCDF) for "Upgradation of existing ERP to ERP 2.0 for Milk Unions with Real time monitoring & AI and AMC of 2 years, Upgradation of existing ERP to ERP 2.0 for Cattle Feed Units with Real time monitoring & AI and AMC of 2 years, Design, Development and Implementation of ERP for Additional Units of RCDF including RCDF Head office with AMC of 2 Year and ERP Implementation for New Milk Unions and New Cattle Feed Units with AI and AMC of 2 Years" from ERP solution Providers". Other details can be obtained from **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** i.e. spp portal and our website; **www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in.** (UBN No: CDF2627SLOB00381) and Tender ID (2026_RCDF_566434_1)

Raj.Samwad/C/26/4867 — **General Manager (P&A)**
जीवन में गर्व रस-हलाल प्याज

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through KPP portal)

No: BESCOM/CGM(Proj)/DGM-1/AGM-1/BC-14/26-27/87

The Notification for Inviting Tender was issued vide No. CYS-51 on 13-05-2026 in Prajavani and The Hindu newspaper is modified as under:

Tender Enquiry No: BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1100 (1)Availability of Bid documents: **18-06-2026** onwards. (2) Last date for submission of bid Queries: **20-06-2026** before **17:00** Hrs. (3) Pre-Bid meeting: **30-06-2026 @ 11:30** Hrs. **Venue of Pre-Bid meeting :** O/o Chief General Manager (Ele), 4th Floor, Project Section, B Block, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R Circle, Bangalore- 560 001. (4) Last date for bid submission: **20-07-2026 @ 15:00** Hrs. (5)Opening of Technical Bids: **21-07-2026 @ 15:30** Hrs.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

KPP Portal Help Desk: Phone No: **+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777** E-mail: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during office working hours.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele)
Projects, BESCOM.
Email : cgmproject.bescom@gmail.com

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

KINSHASA

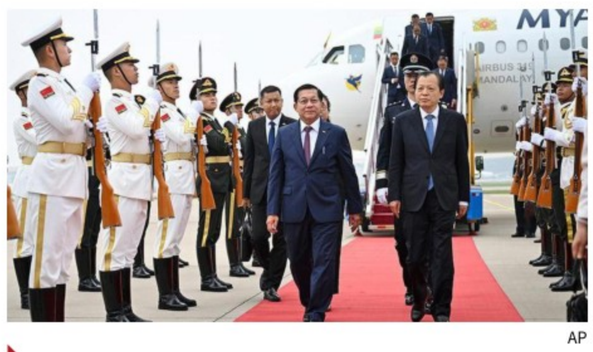
Record daily jump in Ebola cases in Congo pushes death toll to 181

AFP

Authorities have reported one of the highest daily increases in Ebola cases, as the virus spreads quickly and surveillance efforts improve in the month-old outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Officials on Sunday said 72 new cases were reported, bringing the number of confirmed cases to 782, with 181 deaths. AP

BEIJING

Myanmar's ex-junta chief kicks off first China trip as civilian President



AP

Myanmar's military chief turned President Min Aung Hlaing arrived in China on Monday for talks with Xi Jinping, marking his first visit since taking over as civilian leader after polls rejected by democracy monitors. Mr. Hlaing hopes to expand trade and security ties with China, which has remained a vital partner since the 2021 coup. AFP

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

G7 leaders gather in France under shadow of Trump's tariff threats

AFP

The leaders of the Group of Seven nations began arriving in France on Monday amid unease among allies over U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff threats. Emmanuel Macron has sought to use France's presidency of the G7 to push for action on global macroeconomic imbalances, a longstanding U.S. concern. REUTERS

BEIJING

China rejects security report, says its military growth aids world peace

REUTERS

China said on Monday that strengthening its military is beneficial to world peace, slamming a think tank report that warned the threat of a direct strike by Beijing on Australia was increasing. China flayed the report's "strategic misjudgment", and said "the growth of its military represents an increase in the forces for world peace." AP

Russian strikes across Ukraine kill 11, famed monastery in Kyiv catches fire

Moscow fires hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles in overnight barrage; Zelenskyy calls for increased pressure from G7 leaders and global partners after air assault; Ukrainian drone strike kills three people in Russia's Tula region, officials say

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

An overnight Russian barrage of missiles killed at least 11 people across Ukraine and sparked a fire at one of the most important Orthodox monasteries in the capital, Kyiv said on Monday.

In response to the assault, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for more pressure on Moscow from G7 leaders, who were gathering at a summit in France.

The violence killed five people and wounded 34 in the capital as a fire broke out on the grounds of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra UNESCO world heritage site, setting ablaze the roof of its Dormition Cathedral.

Rescue dawn: Emergency responders in action at the Dormition Cathedral following a Russian strike in Kyiv on Monday. AP

"This is one of Russia's most serious crimes against Christian culture to date," Mr. Zelenskyy said on social media.

The UN's cultural agency UNESCO condemned the air raid, saying that "the strike reportedly caused significant damage to the exterior and interior of the cathedral".

After he visited the site, Mr. Zelenskyy said two Russian drones "deliberately" targeted Kyiv's monastery quarter.

'Outdated U.S. missile'

Russia's military said it had carried out a "massive strike" on military sites in Kyiv, as well as the Kharkiv and Dnipro regions, but denied targeting the Lavra, saying it was hit by an outdated U.S. Patriot air defence missile.

Moscow fired 70 missiles and 611 drones, mainly targeting the capital, Ukraine's air force said, adding that it had downed 50 of the missiles and 582 drones.

In total, 11 people were killed in the overnight barrage, including five in the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

Founded in the 11th century, the site holds huge significance for Orthodox believers in both Ukraine and Russia.

Kyiv's Metropolitan Epiphanius, who heads the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, denounced the attack. "What more must the Kremlin antichrist do for the world to realise that decisive action must be taken to stop Russian terror against Ukraine?"

In Russia, a Ukrainian drone strike also killed three people and wounded three others in the city of Tula, local authorities said on Monday.

'Israel won't withdraw troops from Lebanon, Syria, Gaza'

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's Defence Minister said on Monday that Israeli forces would remain in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza indefinitely, hours after the United States and Iran agreed to end the war in West Asia, including in Lebanon.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I are pursuing a clear policy under which the IDF will remain in the security zones in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza for an unlimited period of time, in order to protect the border and Israeli communities from there against jihadist elements," Israel Katz said in a statement.

"The area will be cleared of local residents, and all terrorist infrastructure, both above and below ground – including the houses in the frontline villages that served as terrorist outposts – will be destroyed."

Israel Katz

"Holding territory and maintaining security zones are among the IDF's greatest achievements... therefore we oppose an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, despite all the existing pressures and those that will come," Mr. Katz said, adding that Mr. Netanyahu had informed U.S. President Donald Trump about this.

Deal slammed

Meanwhile, Israeli far-right Ministers denounced the deal, insisting their country was not bound by it.

"Mr. Trump's agreement does not bind us... we are not party to this agreement. It does not safeguard our security," National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said on his Telegram channel.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich also echoed the sentiment, calling the deal "bad for Israel".

"We will have to continue the campaign to bring down the regime ourselves, using creative means, and ensure that Iran never acquires nuclear weapons," Mr. Smotrich said.

Hegseth denies U.S. facing shortage in munitions stockpile

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth denied that the American military was facing a munitions stockpile shortage, saying on Sunday that it was a "manufactured story" peddled by the media.

Concerns over the war in West Asia straining U.S. weapons stockpiles deepened last month after Acting U.S. Navy Secretary Hung Cao cited the conflict as a reason for pausing arms sales to Taiwan.

Mr. Hegseth dismissed the idea when asked on CBS News's Face the Nation programme if there was a crisis in munitions stockpiles. "That is a manufactured story that the media wants to peddle, and ultimately our stockpiles are great and they're only getting stronger," he said.

At an April congressional hearing, Mr. Hegseth testified that it could take "months and years" to replenish the stockpile, describing it as a "fast" time frame.

Bangladesh PM's Adviser 'stopped' at Delhi airport

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

After Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman returned from Delhi airport following what Dhaka described as "humiliating treatment", official sources here said that Mr. Rahman was "held" on Sunday evening for "verification" because he has a history of combative comments on India-related issues.

Sources in Dhaka said that Mr. Rahman, who holds the rank of a State Minister in the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government, was held for more than two hours before he was cleared to enter Delhi, though by that time he had made up his mind to return home.

Zahed Ur Rahman was scheduled to participate in the 28th meeting of the IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) Committee of Senior Officials for which he had travelled in an Air India flight from Dhaka to Delhi on Sunday. A source privy to events at the Indira Gandhi International Airport said that Mr. Rahman was stopped at the immigration counter.

Held at immigration

"At first immigration officials stopped him without providing any explanation

Zahed Ur Rahman

and when he asked for a reason, they said everything was fine and that they were checking some details. He was made to sit on a sofa with other passengers despite the fact that he deserved protocol as he has the rank of a State minister," said the source in Dhaka. "After more than two hours of waiting, Zahed Ur Rahman was informed that he had been cleared. However, Mr. Rahman decided to return to Dhaka as he was disappointed," said the source further.

The Hindu was told that PM Tarique Rahman spoke to Zahed Ur Rahman soon after the latter landed in Dhaka. He spent more than twelve hours in transit in Colombo as he could not be accommodated on a direct Delhi-Dhaka flight.

The matter was further amplified after Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on Monday described the matter as "regrettable". Dhaka subsequently summoned DCM Pavan Badhe.

Officials here, however, pointed out that the immigration authorities were aware of his YouTube programmes and criticism that he had levelled over the years on India's handling of issues with Bangladesh. "He arrived in Delhi leading a Bangladesh delegation for the IORA meet, and was held by immigration for 'verification'."

Officials here said that the authorities looked into nearly 10 pages of remarks that he had made on YouTube and said, "(Despite his past criticism of India) Mr. Rahman was given a one-time exemption to enter, by which time he had decided to return by the night flight."

U.K. govt. bans social media for children under 16

Associated Press
LONDON

Britain will ban children aged under 16 from using social media apps to protect them from harmful content and excessive screen time, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Monday.

The plan was met with mixed reaction, with some praising Mr. Starmer for taking action and others questioning the effectiveness of a blanket ban.

The ban is expected to take effect early next year.

Sport

Gurnoor — a choice driven by instinct and beyond the numbers

Turning it on: Gurnoor consistently hit speeds upwards of 140 kmph to hustle the Afghan batters and also moved the ball around on his ODI debut. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

Leading into the home series versus Afghanistan, Gurnoor had played just nine List A games and taken 12 wickets. In First Class cricket, he had 52 scalps from 18 matches at an average of 27.30

Squad selection in cricket is considered a very rational and logical exercise. But those who do it will attest that even in this era of information and data overload, there is a need to exhibit a streak of intuitive intelligence, go beyond mere statistics, make educated guesses, and ultimately hope that the choices are proven right.

Gurnoor Brar is a case in point. Leading into the home series versus Afghanistan, he had played just nine List A games and taken 12 wickets. In First Class cricket, he had 52 scalps from 18 matches at an average of 27.30.

These are not extraordinary numbers.

But the 26-year-old's raw pace, and 6'5" frame, convinced the wise men that he would be more than handy.

So he proved in the first ODI against the Afghans in Dharamshala on Saturday, returning figures of three for 27 from 4.5 overs in India's seven-wicket victory in a rain-curtailed encounter.

Pace is ace

He consistently hit speeds upwards of 140 kmph to hustle the visiting batters, and also moved the ball around. His height gives him an additional dimension - he can bowl a tad short and threaten the upper half of the bat, a quality that Ishant Sharma once brought to the Indian team and something Prasidh Krishna has only shown glimpses of.

While Gurnoor's selection over Ranji Trophy star Auqib Nabi (104 wickets in two seasons) for the one-off Test versus Afghanistan rankled many, his inclusion for the one-day fixtures appears sound.

The 2027 World Cup will be held majorly in South Africa, with Zimbabwe and Namibia as co-hosts. These are parts of the cricketing world which have traditionally been hospitable to the type of skills Gurnoor possesses.

The marquee tournament may be more than 15 months away, but unlike T20 cricket, the 50-over format does not have an IPL style testing ground. Caught between the hallowed Tests and the ultra-popular T20s, ODIs seem to suffer from the 'middle child syndrome' - left out and isolated but remembered from time to time.

More to come

As a result, all the experiments, and the permutations and combinations, have to happen on the job. That perhaps explains why India is scheduled to play 19 more ODIs in the next seven months alone.

Gurnoor's sophomore test is likely to come on Wednesday under the unforgiving summer heat of Lucknow, a significant change from the pleasant environs of Dharamshala. Can he also make hay while the sun shines?

Saviour: Deepika, right, celebrates after one of her strikes. INSTAGRAM/FIHOCKEY

Deepika excels as India rallies to beat USA

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
AUCKLAND

The Indian women's hockey team staged a remarkable comeback to clinch a 3-2 win over the USA in its opening Pool A match of the FIH Nations Cup here on Monday. For India, Deepika netted a brace while Navneet Kaur also scored a goal.

Ashley Sessa and Madeleine Zimmer were on the score-sheet for the USA.

The winner of the Nations Cup will be promoted to the elite Pro league, from which India was relegated last season.

TUNISIAN HERITAGE

Sweden's Yasin doesn't celebrate goal against his father's country

AP

After he opened the scoring in Sweden's 5-1 win over Tunisia in the World Cup, Yasin Ayari chose not to celebrate. Instead, he raised his hands in apology. The 22-year-old was born in Solna, Sweden, to a Tunisian father, Azzouz Ayari. Yasin was given the chance to play for Tunisia ahead of the 2022 World Cup, but he declined.

SPOTLESS

Continuing tradition, Japanese fans clean up stadium post match

GETTY IMAGES

Japan fans left the stands spotless after their World Cup opener against the Netherlands in Texas on Sunday, saying it was "Japanese culture" to tidy up after themselves. Spectators stayed behind to make sure they left the stadium as they found it, meticulously picking up litter and stuffing it into blue plastic bags.

KEEN TUSSLE

Messi's Argentina begins title defence against Mahrez's Algeria

AFP

Argentina starts its bid for back-to-back World Cups on Tuesday with a side full of familiar faces from Qatar 2022, facing Riyad Mahrez's Algerian team buoyed by warm-up wins. When the teams line up in Kansas City, all eyes will be on 38-year-old captain Lionel Messi, playing in a record sixth World Cup.

RARING TO GO

Odegaard says he is fit to play in Norway's opener against Iraq

GETTY IMAGES

Norway captain Martin Odegaard says he has no concerns about fitness ahead of his side's opening World Cup Group I match in Foxborough, Massachusetts, on Tuesday. "I feel good. I don't know what you're so worried about — yes, I've had some trouble, as you know, but I feel good now," Odegaard said on Sunday.

The hero: Vozinha kept Cape Verde in the game with a number of saves. REUTERS

Gritty Cape Verde holds mighty Spain

The Africans do their nation proud on debut; the European champion fails to break the deadlock despite Yamal's entry late in the second half

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
ATLANTA

Spain's ghosts of recent World Cup horror shows reappeared in Atlanta as the European champion was held goalless by debutant Cape Verde in its opening game on Monday.

Lamine Yamal was left on the bench as the Barcelona superstar gets back to top fitness after nearly two months out with a hamstring injury. Even his appearance as a second-half substitute failed to break down Cape Verde's dogged defence.

Since winning the World Cup for the first time in 2010, Spain has not won a knockout game.

Ranked 67th in the world, Cape Verde was making its debut on the global stage and did a nation of just over 500,000 people proud.

Atlanta's state-of-the-art air conditioned stadium meant there was no excuses for the slow tempo of Spain's build-up.

It took until six minutes before half-time for Spain to seriously threaten. Marc Cucurella sent over a teasing cross that Ferran Torres tipped onto the crossbar and Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha got back on his feet to turn Mikel Oyarzabal's looping header over the bar.

Torres tested Vozinha again moments later before Aymeric Laporte's header from a corner was also clawed away by the Cape Verde No. 1 just before half-time.

Yamal's appearance in the 71st minute instantly lifted the crowd and injected life into the pedestrian Spanish attack.

His first involvement set up a decent opening for fellow substitute Mikel Merino which was too close to Vozinha.

Yamal also began the move that saw Oyarzabal's effort deflected over in what was Spain's best chance of the second half.

Diallo's late strike wins it for Ivory Coast against Ecuador

Ayon Sengupta
PHILADELPHIA

Delight and despair: Sangare carries goal-scorer Diallo while an Ecuadorian player looks crestfallen. AP

World Cups have a habit of bringing together footballing worlds that rarely cross paths. In 33-degree heat, the rhythm of West Africa eventually overcame the resilience of the Andes as Ivory Coast beat Ecuador 1-0 here on Sunday to begin its 2026 World Cup campaign with a crucial victory. Neither side arrived in North America bearing the burden of expectation that follows the game's traditional powers, and it was Ivory Coast that left with momentum and belief on its side.

Ecuador almost made the perfect start. Veteran striker Enner Valencia should have given the South Americans the early lead after Emmanuel Agbadou slipped in the 10th minute while attempting to clear a hopeful ball into the box. The opportunity fell kindly for the skipper, but he dragged his effort just over the bar, much to the agony of the largely Ecuadorian crowd.

Ivory Coast, returning to the World Cup after missing the last two editions, responded seven minutes later. Bazoumana Toure cut in from the left and unleashed a shot that passed the post by the length of a shoelace, the difference in millimetres between a roar and a groan.

Agbadou's difficult opening spell almost proved costly again in the 23rd minute when another mistake allowed John Yeboah to unleash a shot that left Yahia Fofana frozen in place. The goalkeeper watched in horror as the ball collided with the crossbar.

Moments later, Alan Minda came even closer. Played through by Pedro Vite, he struck the woodwork once more as Ecuador, one of South America's most organised and dependable sides, began to find further cracks in the opposition defence.

Ivory Coast, however, remained dangerous on the break. Alan Franco was forced into a last-ditch block to deny Nicolas Pepe after the former Arsenal winger had worked his way into a promising pocket of space, ensuring a breathless end to the opening half.

After the restart, it was Ivory Coast's turn to rattle the crossbar as Elye Wahi burst clear of his marker. Yan Diomande then danced past a series of challenges inside the box, but the finish failed to match the choreography as the ball sailed harmlessly high.

Gonzalo Plata's powerful strike from distance forced Fofana into a rare moment of alarm. Fofana chose caution over confidence, parrying the ball back into play rather than holding on, but Ecuador was too slow to profit from the rebound.

But after much of the evening was spent flirting with a breakthrough, it was Ivory Coast who found it in the dying embers of the match. Wilfried Singo threaded a pass to the edge of the box, and Amad Diallo supplied the composure that had been missing for much of the night, caressing his finish into the bottom-left corner to send his team into delirium.

It was a cruel ending for Ecuador, which was left with nothing to show for its efforts. The victory kept Ivory Coast level on points with Germany, which had earlier started its Group E campaign with a 7-1 demolition of Curacao.

Stellar show: Deepti recorded the best figures by an Indian in the tournament. GETTY IMAGES

Deepti underlines her class on the big stage yet again

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
BIRMINGHAM

When it comes to World Cups, Deepti Sharma would rather like to take five wickets. With the bat, she prefers to play innings that impact a game.

Well, that may be a bit of an exaggeration, yes, but not totally untrue, if you consider her performance over the last few months.

In the final of the 2025 ODI World Cup final at Navi Mumbai last November, she made a run-a-ball 58 that ensured India would put up a good enough total that would be beyond even the brilliant Laura Wolvaardt. And then she took five wickets, including that of the prolific, stylish South African captain.

Match-changing stand

In her next World Cup match, albeit in a different format, she picked up five wickets again.

That was after she was involved in a match-changing sixth-wicket partnership with Richa Ghosh in India's opening match at the T20 World Cup, against Pakistan at Edgbaston here on Sunday.

So what is it with Deepti and World Cups?

The 28-year-old answered that question at the press conference with her broadest smile.

Revel in pressure

"I like the pressure (situations) and the ICC tournaments," she revealed.

"I feel I have started (at this World Cup) from where I had finished. It feels good."

Deepti has more than one reason to feel good now. With 166 wickets, she has once again become the leading bowler in Women's T20Is, overtaking Thailand's Thipatcha Putthawong. Deepti had snatched that honour from Australia's Megan Schutt at Thiruvananthapuram last December during the series against Sri Lanka.

Her spell of five for 10 is also the best by an Indian at the Women's T20 World Cup; overall, only West Indies' Deandra Dottin (five for five) and South Africa's Sune Luus (five for eight) have better figures.

Against Pakistan, it was Deepti who provided India the breakthrough, removing Gull Feroza, whose opening stand with Muneeba Ali was worth 38 and promising more.

Deepti would later run Muneeba out with a direct hit. She signed off in style, too, claiming Pakistan's three last wickets in her final over.

It truly was another standout performance by Deepti, underlining her stature as one of the finest all-rounders in the women's game.

Vital part

Her off-spin has become such a vital part in India's attack, regardless of conditions. And people have almost forgotten that she had once made 188 in an ODI.

That was in 2017 against Ireland at Potchefstroom in South Africa. She had put on 320 for the opening wicket with Punam Raut.

That remains the highest stand in women's ODIs.

> I don't know what the reason behind not shaking hands was. But if things are going to be like this, let it go like that. It won't make a big difference
>
> **WAHAB RIAZ**
> Pakistan coach

1 Curacao became the first team to concede seven or more goals on World Cup debut since 1954 (South Korea 0-9 vs. Hungary)

1 For the first time, The Netherlands failed to win a World Cup game after taking the lead twice

1 The Netherlands started a World Cup match without a player from the Eredivisie for the first time ever. Its opponent Japan fielded two players from the Dutch league (Watanabe and Ueda)

2 Svanberg's goal 18 seconds after entering the field is the second fastest by a substitute in the World Cup since 1966, behind only Richard Morales (16 seconds, Uruguay vs. Senegal, 2002)

5 Sweden's goals were its second highest after the eight it scored against Cuba in the 1938 quarterfinal

7 Germany scored seven goals or more in a World Cup match for the third time

19 Ecuador's unbeaten run in all competitions came to an end

20 Neuer became the second goalkeeper (after Lloris) to make 20 appearances in the football extravaganza

23y 338d
Diallo is the youngest scorer for Ivory Coast in World Cup history

34y 341d
With his maiden goal in a major tournament, van Dijk became the Netherlands' second-oldest World Cup scorer (after Giovanni van Bronckhorst vs. Uruguay in 2010 - 35y 151d)

88 Kamada's 88th-minute equaliser was the 'late'st goal in Japan's World Cup history

Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

Shadows of Seoul 2002 resurface as France takes on Senegal

Ayon Sengupta
NEW JERSEY

Target men: Senegal's Mane and France's Mbappe will be tasked with scoring the goals. AFP

Twenty-four years is a long time in football. Yet, when France and Senegal meet at the MetLife Stadium on Tuesday, the events of a June evening in Seoul will inevitably return to the conversation.

The fixture carries echoes of one of the World Cup's most famous upsets, when Senegal, in 2002, marked its tournament debut by defeating defending champion France.

Since then, the Frenchmen, under Didier Deschamps, have established themselves as one of international football's superpowers while Senegal has grown from an emerging force into one of Africa's most consistent sides.

Deschamps' side has evolved from the pragmatism that delivered the 2018 triumph into a team equally comfortable controlling games through possession. The midfield, expected to revolve around Aurelien Tchouameni, will seek to give France's attackers the freedom to drift between the lines. The challenge against Senegal will be to move the ball quickly to stretch a compact defensive shape and create the one-versus-one situations in which its forwards usually thrive.

At the heart of that threat will be Kylian Mbappe, operating from the left or drifting centrally to use his pace to create problems that few defenders can solve.

But Senegal is unlikely to spend the afternoon merely absorbing pressure. Its midfield is built around intensity, ball recoveries and vertical runs, while its attack thrives on directness rather than prolonged spells of possession.

That approach could be especially effective against a French backline that can be exposed when Theo Hernandez and Jules Kounde surge forward, leaving Nicolas Jackson with opportunities to exploit the space left behind.

The shadows of 2002 will inevitably follow this fixture. But France will insist that this is a different era and a different team. Senegal, meanwhile, will be keen to prove once again that reputation matters very little in football.

THE RESULTS

Group E: Ivory Coast 1 (Diallo 90) bt Ecuador 0.
Group F: Netherlands 2 (Van Dijk 50, Summerville 64) drew with Japan 2 (Nakamura 57, Kamada 88); Sweden 5 (Ayari 7, 90+6, Isak 30, Gyoekeres 59, Svanberg 84) bt Tunisia 1 (Rekik 43).
Group H: Spain 0 drew with Cape Verde 0.

Wednesday's matches

GROUP I
France vs. **Senegal**, 00.30 a.m.
Iraq vs. **Norway**, 3.30 a.m.

GROUP J
Argentina vs. **Algeria**, 6.30 a.m.
Austria vs. **Jordan**, 9.30 a.m.

GROUP K
Portugal vs. **DR Congo**, 10.30 p.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

Today's matches

Southampton, 7 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 17
New Zealand 14 | Sri Lanka 2
NR 1

Southampton, 11 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 4
England 3
Ireland 1

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Sri Lanka-A pips India-A in Super Over

It's the second successive loss for Tilak & Co.; Sooryavanshi gets involved in a heated exchange with Halambage and a few other players

TRI-SERIES

Shayan Acharya
DAMBULLA

Tensions simmered, tempers frayed and confusion reigned at the Rangiri International Stadium here on Monday as India-A suffered a seven-run defeat to Sri Lanka-A in a dramatic Super Over finish.

As the Indian players walked off, there was a sense of disbelief. A match that had seemed within their grasp had somehow slipped away. After recovering to make 265, thanks to maiden List A fifties from Suryansh Shedge and Vipraj Nigam, India-A found itself in winning positions before Sri Lanka-A fought back, led by a determined 93 from Sadeera Samarawickrama.

Making the most of a reprieve, Samarawickrama battled cramps through the closing stages and kept the host alive. When the scores were level at 265, the match headed into a Super Over.

But not before controversy.

India-A believed Chamika Gunasekara had not offered a shot during a crucial appeal late in the chase and argued its case passionately. The umpires disagreed. The fading light soon became another talking point. India-A captain Tilak Varma spent time in discussion with the umpires, urging them to begin the Super Over.

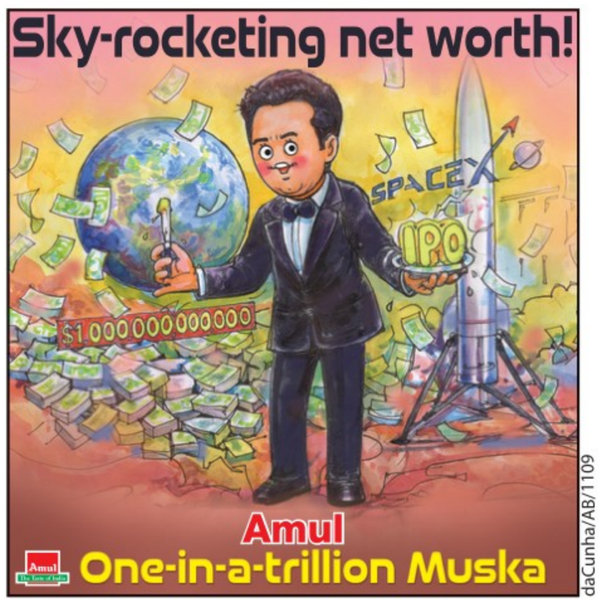
Sources told *The Hindu* that the officials had informed the Indian team that play would be stopped if the umpires deemed the light unfit. Yet, despite visibility deteriorating steadily, the game continued.

Needing 17 runs from six balls, India-A's decision not to have Vaibhav Sooryavanshi face the first delivery raised eyebrows. With visibility far from ideal, India-A managed only nine runs.

Emotions spilled over at the end as Sooryavanshi was involved in a heated exchange with Vishen Halambage and a few Sri Lankan players, an ugly conclusion to an otherwise fiercely contested game.

The scores: India-A 265 in 49.2 overs (Ruturaj 37, Shedge 72, Vipraj 51, Shiraz 3/33, Viyaskanth 3/26) tied with Sri Lanka-A 265/9 in 50 overs (Dickwella 37, Samarawickrama 93).
Super Over: Sri Lanka-A 16/0 bt India-A 9/0.
Toss: Sri Lanka; **PoM:** Samarawickrama.

Tempers fray: Sooryavanshi and a few Lankan players get into a heated argument at the end of the thrilling contest. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



SNAPSHOTS

Rithvik triumphs
India's Rithvik Sanjeevi beat Croatia's Aria Dinata 17-21, 23-21, 21-16 to win the Alpes International Badminton Challenge at the Palais des Sports Pierre Mendes-France.

Indian squash and tennis teams for Asiad
The squash and tennis teams for for the Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan have been announced.
The teams: Squash Men: Abhay Singh, Veer Chotrani, Velavan Senthilkumar, Suraj Chand.
Women: Anahat Singh, Tanvi Khanna, Joshna Chinappa, Shameena Riaz.
Tennis Men: Sumit Nagal, Manas Dhamne, Dhakshineswar Suresh, Yuki Bhambri, N. Sriram Balaji, and Anirudh Chandrasekar.
Reserves: Karan Singh, Rithvik Bollipalli, and Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha. **Women:** Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaishnavi Adkar, Vaidehee Choudhari, Rutuja Bhosale, Prarthana Thombare, and Ankita Raina. **Reserves:** Zeel Desai and Shruti Ahlawat.

WI wins a thriller
West Indies completed a series-clinching five-wicket win in the third T20I against Sri Lanka in Kingston on Sunday.
The scores: Sri Lanka 169 in 20 overs (Wellalage 43; Shamar 5/33) lost to West Indies 170/5 in 19.4 overs (Rutherford 54 n.o. Powell 33, Hetmyer 32).

Shlok FC routs 5 'C' SC
Bengaluru: Shlok Hockey Club whipped 5 'C' Sports Club 5-1 in the KSHA Super Division hockey league in Bengaluru on Monday.
The results: Shlok HC 5 (Stephen Swami 6, 13, 17, 24, Amid Khan 38) bt 5 'C' SC 1 (Govinda 28); Falcon HC 4 (Gowtham Ganapathy 4, Sridhar 25, Vivek 27, Achaiah 32) bt Rainbow HC 1 (Muthu Kumar 44).

Dwija triumphs
Bengaluru Urban's Dwija Anand won the Karnataka State under-9 girls' chess championship, while Shreyansh Das claimed the under-7 Open title on Monday.

LIVE TELECAST

Football World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 6.30 a.m. 12.30 & 3.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7 & 11 p.m.

Masterpiece in scarlet: Hamilton turns doubt into destiny

FORMULA ONE

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Two-and-a-half years ago, Ferrari and Lewis Hamilton shook Formula 1 to its core.

They sent shockwaves through the paddock which eventually reshaped the grid. Drivers scrambled for seats, veterans found themselves discarded, and rookies were thrust into the spotlight.

The euphoria surrounding Hamilton's switch slowly gave way to frustration as it became painfully clear that the Prancing Horse did not possess a car capable of carrying him to an unprecedented eighth World title.

Champagne moment: Hamilton is ecstatic after winning his first race for Ferrari. GETTY IMAGES

Suddenly, what was supposed to be the final glorious chapter of a legendary career began to look like a gamble gone wrong.

The doubters arrived on cue. Some questioned the wisdom of leaving Mercedes. Others wondered whether Hamilton had simply run out of time. The harsher voices suggested the seven-time World champion should have stepped aside altogether.

Then came the ultimate twist of the knife.

Mercedes – the team Hamilton had left behind – returned this season with the benchmark car, sweeping every race heading into the Spanish GP. Week after week, the Silver Arrows disappeared into the distance while Ferrari searched for answers.

Sport, however, has always reserved its greatest stories for those willing to keep believing. For Hamilton, that unfolded under the Spanish sun at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.

The precision in qualifying was vintage Hamilton. The racecraft was relentless. Even Ferrari's often-maligned strategy delivered when it mattered most. For one glorious afternoon, driver, car and team moved as one.

This result was no anomaly. The signs had been there all season. The breathtaking speed in Melbourne. The podiums that followed – flashes of brilliance that hinted at a champion waiting for the right opportunity.

Spain was simply the moment the world could no longer ignore them. And when the chequered flag finally fell, Hamilton's voice crackled over the radio. "Thank you so much! You've helped me achieve this dream."

Only, this is no longer a dream. It is reality. A scarlet reality.